
HOUSE BILL 1897

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Williams and Hunt

Read first time 01/31/2007. Referred to Committee on State
Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to disclosure of attorney invoices; and creating a
2 new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
5 clarify that no reasonable construction of chapter 42.56 RCW has ever
6 allowed attorney invoices to be withheld in their entirety by any
7 public entity in a request for documents under that chapter. It is
8 further the intent of the legislature that specific descriptions of
9 work performed be redacted only if they would reveal an attorney's
10 mental impressions, actual legal advice, theories, or opinions, with
11 the burden upon the public entity to justify each redaction and
12 narrowly construe any exception to full disclosure. The legislature
13 intends to clarify that the public's interest in open, accountable
14 government includes an accounting of any expenditure of public
15 resources, including through liability insurance, upon private legal
16 counsel or private consultants.

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