
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6249

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Dammeier, Rivers, Kohl-Welles, Brown, Hobbs, Fain, Mullet, McCoy, and Tom)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing new authority for courts to assess
2 cost recovery fees for costs associated with new indigent defense
3 standards; amending RCW 3.62.085; adding new sections to chapter 3.62
4 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state supreme
7 court has adopted new standards and caseload limits for public
8 defenders, which were originally scheduled to take effect in September
9 2013, but will not become effective until January 2015.

10 The legislature finds that while these standards of four hundred
11 misdemeanor cases per public defender per year, or weighted-system
12 standards of three hundred misdemeanor cases per public defender per
13 year, are intended to raise the quality of counsel provided to low-
14 income and indigent populations, they also will have a very real fiscal
15 impact on the criminal justice and court operations of cities and
16 counties which already are struggling to address these costs.

17 The legislature therefore intends to provide local courts and
18 courts of limited jurisdiction with additional fee authority to assess

1 costs on offenders that can be used to offset growing expenditures
2 associated with indigent defense and public defender caseload limits.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 3.62.085 and 2005 c 457 s 10 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Upon conviction or a plea of guilty in any court organized under
6 this title or Title 35 RCW, a defendant in a criminal case is liable
7 for a fee of (~~forty-three~~) fifty-one dollars. This fee shall be
8 subject to division with the state under RCW (~~3.46.120(2),~~)
9 3.50.100(2), 3.62.020(2), 3.62.040(2), and 35.20.220(2).

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 3.62 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 Funds deposited into the city or county general fund attributable
13 to the increase in fees imposed by section 2, chapter . . ., Laws of
14 2014 (section 2 of this act) must be used to support criminal justice
15 matters connected with indigent defense cases.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 3.62 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 In order to provide full and ample funding to support criminal
19 justice matters connected with the caseload limits for indigent defense
20 set under CrR 3.1, in addition to the funds deposited into the city or
21 county general fund attributable to the increase in fees imposed by
22 section 2, chapter . . ., Laws of 2014 (section 2 of this act), the
23 administrative office of the courts shall reimburse the city or county
24 from existing resources in an amount of no less that five hundred
25 twenty-eight thousand dollars.

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