
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6162

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Schoesler, Pedersen, Dozier, Keiser, and Wellman)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to a penalty for excessive fees for locating
2 abandoned property held by a county; adding a new section to chapter
3 63.30 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 63.30
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) It is unlawful for any person to seek or receive from any
8 person or contract with any person or entity for any fee or
9 compensation for locating or purporting to locate any property held
10 by a county that are proceeds from a foreclosure or distraint sale
11 for delinquent property taxes, assessments, or other liens, or funds
12 that are otherwise held by a county because of a person's failure to
13 claim funds held as reimbursement for unowed taxes, fees, or other
14 government charges, in excess of five percent of the value thereof
15 returned to such owner. Any person or entity violating this section
16 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by either a fine of
17 not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or
18 both.

19 (2) The legislature finds that the practices covered by this
20 section are matters vitally affecting the public interest for the
21 purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

1 Any violation of this section is not reasonable in relation to the
2 development and preservation of business. It is an unfair or
3 deceptive act in trade or commerce and an unfair method of
4 competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act,
5 chapter 19.86 RCW. Remedies provided by chapter 19.86 RCW are
6 cumulative and not exclusive.

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