
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5376

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOVERY OF ATTORNEYS' FEES UNDER THE STATE CODE OF ETHICS.

SUMMARY

This bill narrows the circumstances under which the state must pay reasonable attorneys' fees in proceedings brought against public officials or state employees under the ethics code. Under the bill, the state must pay these fees if the matter was brought without substantial justification, as determined by (1) the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (CEAB) after a hearing or (2) a court handling an appeal of the board's decision.

Under current law, the state must pay reasonable attorneys' fees for respondents if (1) a judge trial referee finds, after a hearing, that there was no probable cause of an ethics code violation; (2) CEAB determines that there was no code violation; or (3) a court overturns the board's finding of a violation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/29/2022)