

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB307**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday February 09, 2017  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** Brasch  
**One Liner:** Provide for mediation, child abuse prevention, and civil legal services fees in certain proceedings

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Baker, Chambers, Ebke, Halloran, Hansen, Krist, Morfeld,  
Pansing Brooks

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Lydia Brasch  
Corey Steel  
Casey Karges  
Kelly Riley  
Debora Denny  
Jim Creigh

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
The Mediation Center  
The Resolution Center  
Office of Dispute Resolution  
self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 307 would make adjustments to provisions regarding the collection and distribution of certain court fees.

Section 1 of the bill cleans up language regarding the title of the judges' retirement fund and changes the singular "fee" to the plural "fees."

Section 2 changes the language of statutory provisions for the collection of fees related to a petition for dissolution of marriage. The total fee remains at \$75, and the distribution of that total amount remains the same. However, the fee is broken up into two fees of \$50 and \$25, and each separate fee is distributed in the amount of \$25 going to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund and \$50 going to mediation under the Parenting Act Fund. The structure of the fees, then, remains unchanged.

Section 3 changes language regarding fees collected when a paternity, parental support, modification of decree of dissolution or annulment of marriage, and modification of trial support, child custody, parenting time, visitation, or other access. The overall total fee remains unchanged at \$65, but the fee is broken into two parts, with \$50 going to the mediation fund under the Parenting Act, and \$15 going to the Legal Aid and Services Fund. This breakdown is the same as before, but is more clearly spelled out in the bill's changes.

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Section also adds an additional fee in cases filed by a county attorney or other authorized attorney when services are provided under title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act. The bill adds a mediation fee of \$50 and a legal services fee of \$15 dollars in a proceeding brought by a county attorney as described above for a pleading filed by any party subsequent to the paternity pleading if it is to modify an award of child support or to establish or modify custody, parenting time, visitation, or other access to the child. The \$50 mediation fee would be credited to the Parenting Act Fund, and the \$15 fee to the Legal Aid and Services Fund.

Section 4 merely harmonizes language related to the Child Abuse Prevention Fund statute with the changes made in this bill.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Amendment provides an exemption for payment of fees by a county attorney or authorized attorney to address concerns raised by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Amendment will ensure that filings submitted by a county attorney or authorized attorney are not subject to the fees sought to be collected by the bill.

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Laura Ebke, Chairperson