



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5432

LCO No. 2341



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF FEES BY A PARTY TO A CIVIL ACTION AFFECTING TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 52-257 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) The fees of parties in civil actions in which the matter in demand
4 is not less than fifteen thousand dollars shall be: For each complaint,
5 exclusive of signing and bond, five dollars for the first page and, for each
6 succeeding page, two dollars; for each judgment file, two dollars for the
7 first page and, for each additional page, one dollar and fifty cents. The
8 prevailing party in any such civil action shall receive, by way of
9 indemnity, the following sums: (1) For all proceedings before trial, fifty
10 dollars; (2) for the trial of an issue of law or fact, seventy-five dollars,
11 but if more than one issue of fact is tried at one time, only one trial fee
12 shall be allowed; and (3) in difficult or extraordinary cases in the
13 Superior Court, where a defense has been interposed, a further
14 allowance, in the discretion of the court, not to exceed two hundred
15 dollars.

16 (b) Parties shall also receive: (1) For each witness attending court, the
17 witness' legal fee and mileage; (2) for each deposition taken out of the
18 state, forty dollars, and for each deposition within the state, thirty
19 dollars; (3) on an application for the sale of property attached, the
20 expenses incurred; (4) in any civil action affecting the title to real
21 property situated in this state, or affecting any mortgage or lien thereon,
22 the actual expense [, not exceeding the sum of two hundred twenty-five
23 dollars,] of an examination of the land records concerning the title to the
24 real property in question and such amount as the court or judge
25 determines to be reasonable for the services of an expert on the value of
26 the land when such value is in dispute; (5) for maps, plans, mechanical
27 drawings and photographs, necessary or convenient in the trial of any
28 action, a reasonable sum; (6) for copies of records used in evidence,
29 bonds, recognizances and subpoenas, court and clerk's fees; (7) for the
30 signing and service of process, the legal fees payable therefor, except
31 that a fee shall not be allowed for the return of a subpoena to court; (8)
32 the actual expense incurred in publishing orders of notice under
33 direction of the court; (9) for each interpreter necessarily employed in
34 the trial of any civil action, twenty dollars per diem; (10) for premiums
35 upon all bonds or undertakings provided pursuant to statute, rule of
36 court, order of court or stipulation of parties, including bonds in lieu of
37 or in release or dissolution of attachment, the actual amount paid, not
38 exceeding a reasonable amount; (11) documented investigative costs
39 and expenses, not exceeding the sum of two hundred dollars; and (12)
40 for the recording, videotaping, transcribing and presentation of the
41 deposition of a practitioner of the healing arts, as defined in section 20-
42 1, dentist, registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse or
43 licensed practical nurse, as defined in section 20-87a, or real estate
44 appraiser that is used in lieu of live testimony in the civil action, the
45 reasonable expenses incurred.

46 (c) In all civil actions in which the matter in demand is less than
47 fifteen thousand dollars, the prevailing party shall receive, by way of
48 indemnity, the following sums: (1) For all proceedings before trial, ten
49 dollars; and (2) for the trial of an issue of fact or law, fifteen dollars, but,

50 if more than one issue of fact or law is tried at one time, only one trial
51 fee shall be allowed.

52 (d) The following sums may be allowed to the prevailing party in
53 causes on appeal, in the discretion of the court: (1) For all proceedings,
54 one hundred dollars; (2) for expenses actually incurred in printing or
55 photoduplicating copies of briefs, a sum not exceeding two hundred
56 dollars; and (3) to the plaintiff in error, plaintiff in a cause reserved, or
57 appellant, as the case may be, the record fee, provided judgment shall
58 be rendered in his favor. Such costs in the Superior Court in appealed
59 causes and in the Supreme Court or Appellate Court shall be in the
60 discretion of the court on reservation of a cause for advice, or when a
61 new trial is granted.

62 (e) The provisions of this section shall not interfere with the discretion
63 of the court in taxing costs in actions in which equitable relief is
64 demanded.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	52-257

JUD *Joint Favorable*