

HB 1352 -- AWARDING FEES IN PROCEEDINGS

SPONSOR: Christofanelli

Currently, a court may grant as relief to a prevailing party other than a state agency or a state or local commission in a civil rights claim reasonable attorneys' fees; a prevailing respondent may only be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees if the respondent shows that the case was without foundation. This bill repeals the provisions related to the awarding of attorneys' fees.

Additionally, the current definition of "reasonable fees and expenses" as it pertains to administrative hearings limits awards for attorneys' fees to \$75 per hour unless the court determines that a special factor justifies a higher fee. The bill repeals this cap on attorney fees.