

File Number: H.F. 3721
Version: As introduced

Date: March 20, 2018

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Subject: Attorney General Contingent Fee Contracts

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Current law authorizes the attorney general to hire outside legal counsel to assist the attorney general in representing the state in certain cases. This bill prohibits the attorney general from entering a contract with outside counsel that provides an attorney's fee payment on a contingent basis.

Contingent fee structures typically provide that the attorney's fee is a fixed percentage of the amount is recovered on behalf of the client. So, if the client wins the case, the attorney's fees will be proportional to the size of the award; if the client loses the case and does not recover an award, the attorney's fee will be zero.

If not working on a contingent fee basis, attorneys typically charge an hourly rate for their work.