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This bill provides that where a statute allows a prevailing party to be awarded attorney fees, the court must consider the reasonableness of the attorney fees award in comparison to the amount of damages awarded, and also the reasonableness of the award in comparison to the amount sought and the amount of damages actually awarded to the injured prevailing party.

This bill would also cap the amount of attorney fees for a prevailing party to the point at which the party turned down a settlement offer that was as much or more than the award they received at trial. The prevailing party could still get attorney fees but only up to the point in time that the settlement was rejected (or timed out pursuant to Rule 68 of the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure).

This bill would be effective on August 1, 2017, and would apply to actions that begin on or after that date.