

## Legislation Increasing Private Counsel Compensation Moves Forward

Yesterday afternoon, March 19, 2008, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary reported out favorably Senate Bill 999: An Act Relative to The Rate of Private Counsel Compensation. The legislation would amend the Massachusetts General Laws by increasing the hourly rates paid to private counsel to the following levels:

Homicide cases - \$110 per hour;

Superior Court cases, including sexually dangerous person cases - \$70 per hour;

District Court cases and children in need of services cases - \$55 per hour;

Children and family law cases, care and protection cases, sex offender registry cases and mental health cases - \$60 per hour

The legislation will now be sent to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means which is responsible for, among other things, legislation that will cost the Commonwealth money.

Thanks should be given to both Chairs of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Robert Creedon and Representative Gene O'Flaherty, and all the members of the Judiciary Committee. Contact information for the Judiciary Committee is available at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/comm/j19.htm>.

A copy of the legislation is available at <http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/185/st00/st00999.htm>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [abenedetti@publiccounsel.net](mailto:abenedetti@publiccounsel.net).

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