

1                                   **REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL FEES AND**  
2                                   **COSTS TO EDUCATORS**

3                                   2000 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Sponsor: Matt Throckmorton**

6 AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; PROVIDING THAT EDUCATORS MAY  
7 RECOVER ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS IN ACTIONS AGAINST THEM THAT ARE  
8 DISMISSED OR RESULT IN FINDINGS FAVORABLE TO THE EDUCATOR.

9 This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

10 ENACTS:

11                   **53A-6-503**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

13                   Section 1. Section **53A-6-503** is enacted to read:

14                   **53A-6-503. Reimbursement of legal fees and costs to educators.**

15                   (1) As used in this section:

16                   (a) "Action" means any action, except those referred to in Section 63-30a-2, brought  
17 against an educator by an individual or entity other than:

18                   (i) the entity who licenses the educator; and

19                   (ii) the school district that employs the educator or employed the educator at the time of  
20 the alleged act or omission.

21                   (b) "Educator" means an individual who holds or is required to hold a license under this  
22 chapter and is employed by a school district located within the state.

23                   (c) "School district" includes the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and the state's applied  
24 technology centers.

25                   (2) Except as otherwise provided in Section 63-30a-2, an educator is entitled to recover  
26 reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in his defense against an individual or entity who  
27 initiates an action against the educator if:

28           (a) the action is brought for any act or omission of the educator during the performance  
29 of his duties within the scope of his employment; and

30           (b) it is dismissed or results in findings favorable to the educator.

31           (3) An educator who recovers under this section is also entitled to recover reasonable  
32 attorneys' fees and costs necessarily incurred by the educator in recovering the attorneys' fees and  
33 costs allowed under Subsection (2).

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 1-11-00 3:04 PM**

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**