

hundred dollars per month through completion of the present term of office. In addition to salary, all districts may provide by resolution for the payment of per diem compensation to each commissioner at a rate not exceeding thirty-five dollars for each day or major part thereof devoted to the business of the district, and days upon which he attends meetings of the commission of his district or meetings attended by one or more commissioners of two or more districts called to consider business common to them, but such per diem compensation paid during any one year to a commissioner shall not exceed five thousand dollars. Per diem compensation shall not be paid for services of a ministerial or professional nature.

Each district commissioner shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with such business and meetings, including his subsistence and lodging and travel while away from his place of residence.

Any district providing group insurance for its employees, covering them, their immediate family and dependents, may provide insurance for its commissioner with the same coverage.

Passed the Senate April 4, 1977.

Passed the House May 26, 1977.

Approved by the Governor June 6, 1977.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 6, 1977.

## CHAPTER 158

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2159]

### ACTIONS FOR DAMAGES—MALICIOUS PROSECUTION

AN ACT Relating to claims; and adding a new section to chapter 4.24 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 4.24 RCW a new section to read as follows:

In any action for damages, whether based on tort or contract or otherwise, a claim or counterclaim for damages may be litigated in the principal action for malicious prosecution on the ground that the action was instituted with knowledge that the same was false, and unfounded, malicious and without probable cause in the filing of such action, or that the same was filed as a part of a conspiracy to misuse judicial process by filing an action known to be false and unfounded.

Passed the Senate March 14, 1977.

Passed the House May 26, 1977.

Approved by the Governor June 6, 1977.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State June 6, 1977.

## CHAPTER 159

[Senate Bill No. 2202]

### PUBLIC LANDS—FOREST DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT—RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COST ACCOUNT

AN ACT Relating to lands under the jurisdiction and management of the department of natural resources; amending section 6, chapter 154, Laws of 1923 as last amended by section 1, chapter 314,