

## Committee on Judiciary

### **SB 702 — Attorney Fees and Costs**

by Senator Martin

The bill requires courts to award reasonable attorney fees and costs to prevailing defendants in civil litigation concerning property rights, if the improvements made by the defendant property owner were made in substantial compliance with, or in reliance on, environmental or regulatory approvals or permits issued by a political subdivision of the state or a state agency.

For purposes of the bill, the term “property rights” includes, but is not limited to, use rights, ingress and egress rights, and those rights incident to land bordering upon navigable waters as described in the riparian rights statute.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

*Vote: Senate 40-0; House 115-0*