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HOUSE BILL 2459

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Appelwick, Sheldon, Scott, Locke, Leonard, Cantwell, R. Johnson, Jacobsen, Paris, Jones, Haugen, Spanel, Sprenkle, J. Kohl, O'Brien, May, Basich and Anderson

Read first time 01/17/92. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to superior courts; amending RCW 2.08.061,  
2 2.08.062, 2.08.063, 2.08.064, 2.08.065, and 2.32.180; creating a new  
3 section; and providing effective dates.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.08.061 and 1989 c 328 s 2 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 There shall be in the county of King no more than (~~forty-six~~)  
8 fifty-eight judges of the superior court; in the county of Spokane ten  
9 judges of the superior court; and in the county of Pierce nineteen  
10 judges of the superior court. The King county legislative authority  
11 may phase in the additional twelve judges, as authorized by the 1992  
12 amendments to this section, over a period of time not to extend beyond  
13 July 1, 1996.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.08.062 and 1990 c 186 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       There shall be in the counties of Chelan and Douglas jointly, three  
4 judges of the superior court; in the county of Clark six judges of the  
5 superior court; in the county of Grays Harbor (~~two~~) three judges of  
6 the superior court; in the county of Kitsap seven judges of the  
7 superior court; in the county of Kittitas one judge of the superior  
8 court; in the county of Lewis two judges of the superior court.

9       **Sec. 3.** RCW 2.08.063 and 1988 c 66 s 1 are each amended to read as  
10 follows:

11       There shall be in the county of Lincoln one judge of the superior  
12 court; in the county of Skagit, (~~two~~) three judges of the superior  
13 court; in the county of Walla Walla, two judges of the superior court;  
14 in the county of Whitman, one judge of the superior court; in the  
15 county of Yakima six judges of the superior court; in the county of  
16 Adams, one judge of the superior court; in the county of Whatcom, three  
17 judges of the superior court.

18       **Sec. 4.** RCW 2.08.064 and 1989 c 328 s 3 are each amended to read  
19 as follows:

20       There shall be in the counties of Benton and Franklin jointly, five  
21 judges of the superior court; in the county of Clallam, two judges of  
22 the superior court; in the county of Jefferson, one judge of the  
23 superior court; in the county of Snohomish, (~~eleven~~) thirteen judges  
24 of the superior court; in the counties of Asotin, Columbia and Garfield  
25 jointly, one judge of the superior court; in the county of Cowlitz,  
26 three judges of the superior court; in the counties of Klickitat and  
27 Skamania jointly, one judge of the superior court.

1       **Sec. 5.** RCW 2.08.065 and 1990 c 186 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       There shall be in the county of Grant, two judges of the superior  
4 court; in the county of Okanogan, one judge of the superior court; in  
5 the county of Mason, ((~~one~~)) two judges of the superior court; in the  
6 county of Thurston, six judges of the superior court; in the counties  
7 of Pacific and Wahkiakum jointly, one judge of the superior court; in  
8 the counties of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens jointly, two judges of  
9 the superior court; and in the counties of San Juan and Island jointly,  
10 two judges of the superior court.

11       **Sec. 6.** RCW 2.32.180 and 1991 c 363 s 2 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13       It shall be and is the duty of each and every superior court judge  
14 in counties or judicial districts in the state of Washington having a  
15 population of over thirty-five thousand inhabitants to appoint, or said  
16 judge may, in any county or judicial district having a population of  
17 over twenty-five thousand and less than thirty-five thousand, appoint  
18 a stenographic reporter to be attached to the judge's court who shall  
19 have had at least three years' experience as a skilled, practical  
20 reporter, or who upon examination shall be able to report and  
21 transcribe accurately one hundred and seventy-five words per minute of  
22 the judge's charge or two hundred words per minute of testimony each  
23 for five consecutive minutes; said test of proficiency, in event of  
24 inability to meet qualifications as to length of time of experience, to  
25 be given by an examining committee composed of one judge of the  
26 superior court and two official reporters of the superior court of the  
27 state of Washington, appointed by the president judge of the superior  
28 court judges association of the state of Washington: PROVIDED, That a  
29 stenographic reporter shall not be required to be appointed for the

1 seven additional judges of the superior court authorized for  
2 appointment by section 1, chapter 323, Laws of 1987, the additional  
3 superior court judge authorized by section 1, chapter 66, Laws of 1988,  
4 the additional superior court judges authorized by sections 2 and 3,  
5 chapter 328, Laws of 1989, ~~((or))~~ the additional superior court judges  
6 authorized by sections 1 and 2, chapter 186, Laws of 1990, or the  
7 additional superior court judges authorized by sections 1 through 5  
8 chapter ..., Laws of 1992 (this act). Appointment of a stenographic  
9 reporter is not required for any additional superior court judge  
10 authorized after July 1, 1992. The initial judicial appointee shall  
11 serve for a period of six years; the two initial reporter appointees  
12 shall serve for a period of four years and two years, respectively,  
13 from September 1, 1957; thereafter on expiration of the first terms of  
14 service, each newly appointed member of said examining committee to  
15 serve for a period of six years. In the event of death or inability of  
16 a member to serve, the president judge shall appoint a reporter or  
17 judge, as the case may be, to serve for the balance of the unexpired  
18 term of the member whose inability to serve caused such vacancy. The  
19 examining committee shall grant certificates to qualified applicants.  
20 Administrative and procedural rules and regulations shall be  
21 promulgated by said examining committee, subject to approval by the  
22 said president judge.

23 The stenographic reporter upon appointment shall thereupon become  
24 an officer of the court and shall be designated and known as the  
25 official reporter for the court or judicial district for which he or  
26 she is appointed: PROVIDED, That in no event shall there be appointed  
27 more official reporters in any one county or judicial district than  
28 there are superior court judges in such county or judicial district;  
29 the appointments in each county with a population of one million or  
30 more shall be made by the majority vote of the judges in said county

1 acting en banc; the appointments in each county with a population of  
2 from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than one million may be  
3 made by each individual judge therein or by the judges in said county  
4 acting en banc. Each official reporter so appointed shall hold office  
5 during the term of office of the judge or judges appointing him or her,  
6 but may be removed for incompetency, misconduct or neglect of duty, and  
7 before entering upon the discharge of his or her duties shall take an  
8 oath to perform faithfully the duties of his or her office, and file a  
9 bond in the sum of two thousand dollars for the faithful discharge of  
10 his or her duties. Such reporter in each court is hereby declared to  
11 be a necessary part of the judicial system of the state of Washington.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) Section 2 of this act shall take  
13 effect January 1, 1993.

14 (2) Section 4 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1993.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The additional judicial positions  
16 created by sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this act shall be effective  
17 only if each county through its duly constituted legislative authority  
18 documents its approval of any additional positions and its agreement  
19 that it will pay out of county funds, without reimbursement from the  
20 state, the expenses of such additional judicial positions as provided  
21 by statute.