SENATE BILL 5881

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Senators Pelz, Madsen, McCaslin, Johnson and Owen.

Read first time February 28, 1991. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to property forfeiture by criminals; amending RCW
- 2 9A.82.100; reenacting and amending RCW 69.50.505; and prescribing
- 3 penalties.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.82.100 and 1989 c 271 s 111 are each amended to
- 6 read as follows:
- 7 (1) (a) A person who sustains injury to his or her person,
- 8 business, or property by an act of criminal profiteering that is part
- 9 of a pattern of criminal profiteering activity or by a violation of RCW
- 10 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 may file an action in superior court for the
- 11 recovery of damages and the costs of the suit, including reasonable
- 12 investigative and attorney's fees.
- 13 (b) The attorney general or county prosecuting attorney may file an
- 14 action: (i) On behalf of those persons injured or, respectively, on
- 15 behalf of the state or county if the entity has sustained damages, or

- 1 (ii) to prevent, restrain, or remedy a pattern of criminal profiteering
- 2 activity or a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.
- 3 (c) An action for damages filed by or on behalf of an injured
- 4 person, the state, or the county shall be for the recovery of damages
- 5 and the costs of the suit, including reasonable investigative and
- 6 attorney's fees.
- 7 (d) In an action filed to prevent, restrain, or remedy a pattern of
- 8 criminal profiteering activity or a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or
- 9 9A.82.080, the court, upon proof of the violation, may impose a civil
- 10 penalty not exceeding two hundred fifty thousand dollars, in addition
- 11 to awarding the cost of the suit, including reasonable investigative
- 12 and attorney's fees.
- 13 (2) The superior court has jurisdiction to prevent, restrain, and
- 14 remedy a pattern of criminal profiteering or a violation of RCW
- 15 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 after making provision for the rights of all
- 16 innocent persons affected by the violation and after hearing or trial,
- 17 as appropriate, by issuing appropriate orders.
- 18 (3) Prior to a determination of liability, orders issued under
- 19 subsection (2) of this section may include, but are not limited to,
- 20 entering restraining orders or prohibitions or taking such other
- 21 actions, including the acceptance of satisfactory performance bonds, in
- 22 connection with any property or other interest subject to damages,
- 23 forfeiture, or other restraints pursuant to this section as the court
- 24 deems proper. The orders may also include attachment, receivership, or
- 25 injunctive relief in regard to personal or real property pursuant to
- 26 Title 7 RCW. In shaping the reach or scope of receivership,
- 27 attachment, or injunctive relief, the superior court shall provide for
- 28 the protection of bona fide interests in property, including community
- 29 property, of persons who were not involved in the violation of this
- 30 chapter, except to the extent that such interests or property were

- 1 acquired or used in such a way as to be subject to forfeiture under
- 2 ((RCW 9A.82.100)) subsection (4)(f) of this section.
- 3 (4) Following a determination of liability, orders may include, but
- 4 are not limited to:
- 5 (a) Ordering any person to divest himself or herself of any
- 6 interest, direct or indirect, in any enterprise.
- 7 (b) Imposing reasonable restrictions on the future activities or
- 8 investments of any person, including prohibiting any person from
- 9 engaging in the same type of endeavor as the enterprise engaged in, the
- 10 activities of which affect the laws of this state, to the extent the
- 11 Constitutions of the United States and this state permit.
- 12 (c) Ordering dissolution or reorganization of any enterprise.
- 13 (d) Ordering the payment of actual damages sustained to those
- 14 persons injured by a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 or an act
- 15 of criminal profiteering that is part of a pattern of criminal
- 16 profiteering, and in the court's discretion, increasing the payment to
- 17 an amount not exceeding three times the actual damages sustained.
- 18 (e) Ordering the payment of all costs and expenses of the
- 19 prosecution and investigation of a pattern of criminal profiteering
- 20 activity or a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080, civil and
- 21 criminal, incurred by the state or county, including any costs of
- 22 defense provided at public expense, as appropriate to the state general
- 23 fund or the antiprofiteering revolving fund of the county.
- 24 (f) Ordering forfeiture first as restitution to any person damaged
- 25 by an act of criminal profiteering that is part of a pattern of
- 26 criminal profiteering then to the state general fund or
- 27 antiprofiteering revolving fund of the county, as appropriate, to the
- 28 extent not already ordered to be paid in other damages, of the
- 29 following:

- 1 (i) Any property or other interest acquired or maintained in
- 2 violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 to the extent of the investment
- 3 of funds, and any appreciation or income attributable to the
- 4 investment, from a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.
- 5 (ii) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property
- 6 used to influence any enterprise that a person has established,
- 7 operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of, in
- 8 violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.
- 9 (iii) All proceeds traceable to or derived from an offense included
- 10 in the pattern of criminal profiteering activity and all moneys,
- 11 negotiable instruments, securities, and other things of value
- 12 significantly used or intended to be used significantly to facilitate
- 13 commission of the offense.
- 14 (g) Ordering payment to the state general fund or antiprofiteering
- 15 revolving fund of the county, as appropriate, of an amount equal to the
- 16 gain a person has acquired or maintained through an offense included in
- 17 the definition of criminal profiteering.
- 18 (5) In addition to or in lieu of an action under this section, the
- 19 attorney general or county prosecuting attorney may file an action for
- 20 forfeiture to the state general fund or antiprofiteering revolving fund
- 21 of the county, as appropriate, to the extent not already ordered paid
- 22 pursuant to this section, of the following:
- 23 (a) Any interest acquired or maintained by a person in violation of
- 24 RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 to the extent of the investment of funds
- 25 obtained from a violation of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080 and any
- 26 appreciation or income attributable to the investment.
- 27 (b) Any property, contractual right, or claim against property used
- 28 to influence any enterprise that a person has established, operated,
- 29 controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of, in violation
- 30 of RCW 9A.82.060 or 9A.82.080.

- 1 (c) All proceeds traceable to or derived from an offense included
- 2 in the pattern of criminal profiteering activity and all moneys,
- 3 negotiable instruments, securities, and other things of value
- 4 significantly used or intended to be used significantly to facilitate
- 5 the commission of the offense.
- 6 (6) Whenever any property forfeitable under subsection (4)(f) or
- 7 (5) of this section has been commingled with nonforfeitable property,
- 8 there shall be a presumption that the entire commingled property is
- 9 forfeitable. The presumption may be rebutted as to any portion claimed
- 10 to be nonforfeitable by clear and convincing evidence of the
- 11 <u>independent</u>, <u>untainted source of such portion</u>.
- 12 (7) A person or enterprise that acquires, maintains, or uses any
- 13 property so as to make the property forfeitable pursuant to the
- 14 provisions of this section is an involuntary trustee of the property.
- 15 The involuntary trustee and any other person or enterprise, except a
- 16 bona fide purchaser for value reasonably without notice of the unlawful
- 17 conduct and who is not knowingly taking part in an illegal transaction,
- 18 holds the property, its proceeds and its fruits in constructive trust
- 19 for the benefit of persons entitled to remedies under this section.
- 20 (8) If any of the property described in subsection (4)(f) or (5) of
- 21 this section, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
- 22 (a) Cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) Has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third
- 24 party;
- 25 <u>(c) Has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;</u>
- 26 (d) Has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) Has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided
- 28 <u>without difficulty;</u>

- 1 the court shall order the forfeiture of any other property of the
- 2 defendant up to the value of any property described in (a) through (e)
- 3 of this subsection.
- 4 (9) The state or county may request the issuance of a warrant
- 5 authorizing the seizure of property subject to forfeiture or to being
- 6 used to satisfy a judgment entered in favor of the state or county
- 7 under this section in the same manner as provided for a search warrant.
- 8 If the court determines that there is probable cause to believe that
- 9 the property to be seized would, in the event the state or county
- 10 establishes liability, be subject to forfeiture or to being used to
- 11 satisfy a judgment entered in favor of the state or county and that an
- 12 order under subsection (3) of this section may not be sufficient to
- 13 assure the availability of the property for forfeiture or satisfaction
- 14 of judgment, the court shall issue a warrant authorizing the seizure of
- 15 <u>such property</u>. Seizure of personal property without process may be made
- 16 if:
- 17 (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search
- 18 warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant;
- 19 (b) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior
- 20 judgment in favor of the state or county in a forfeiture proceeding
- 21 based upon this section;
- (c) A law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that
- 23 the property is directly or indirectly dangerous to health or safety;
- 24 <u>or</u>
- 25 (d) A law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that
- 26 the property is subject to forfeiture or to being used to satisfy a
- 27 judgment entered in favor of the state under this section.
- 28 All procedures for release or termination of criminal profiteering
- 29 <u>liens shall apply also to seizures pursuant to this subsection.</u>

- 1 (10) A defendant convicted in any criminal proceeding is precluded
- 2 in any civil proceeding from denying the essential allegations of the
- 3 criminal offense proven in the criminal trial in which the defendant
- 4 was convicted. For the purposes of this subsection, a conviction shall
- 5 be deemed to have occurred upon a verdict, finding, or plea of guilty,
- 6 notwithstanding the fact that appellate review of the conviction and
- 7 sentence has been or may be sought. If a subsequent reversal of the
- 8 conviction occurs, any judgment that was based upon that conviction may
- 9 be reopened upon motion of the defendant.
- 10 $((\frac{7}{1}))$ (11) The initiation of civil proceedings under this section
- 11 shall be commenced within three years after discovery of the pattern of
- 12 criminal profiteering activity or after the pattern should reasonably
- 13 have been discovered.
- (((8))) (12) The attorney general or county prosecuting attorney
- 15 may, in a civil action brought pursuant to this section, file with the
- 16 clerk of the superior court a certificate stating that the case is of
- 17 special public importance. A copy of that certificate shall be
- 18 furnished immediately by the clerk to the presiding chief judge of the
- 19 superior court in which the action is pending and, upon receipt of the
- 20 copy, the judge shall immediately designate a judge to hear and
- 21 determine the action. The judge so designated shall promptly assign
- 22 the action for hearing, participate in the hearings and determination,
- 23 and cause the action to be expedited.
- (((9))) (13) The standard of proof in actions brought pursuant to
- 25 this section is the preponderance of the evidence test.
- 26 (((10))) A person other than the attorney general or county
- 27 prosecuting attorney who files an action under this section shall serve
- 28 notice and one copy of the pleading on the attorney general within
- 29 thirty days after the action is filed with the superior court. The
- 30 notice shall identify the action, the person, and the person's

- 1 attorney. Service of the notice does not limit or otherwise affect the
- 2 right of the state to maintain an action under this section or
- 3 intervene in a pending action nor does it authorize the person to name
- 4 the state or the attorney general as a party to the action.
- 5 $((\frac{11}{11}))$ Except in cases filed by a county prosecuting
- 6 attorney, the attorney general may, upon timely application, intervene
- 7 in any civil action or proceeding brought under this section if the
- 8 attorney general certifies that in the attorney general's opinion the
- 9 action is of special public importance. Upon intervention, the
- 10 attorney general may assert any available claim and is entitled to the
- 11 same relief as if the attorney general had instituted a separate
- 12 action.
- 13 $((\frac{12}{12}))$ In addition to the attorney general's right to
- 14 intervene as a party in any action under this section, the attorney
- 15 general may appear as amicus curiae in any proceeding in which a claim
- 16 under this section has been asserted or in which a court is
- 17 interpreting RCW 9A.82.010, 9A.82.080, 9A.82.090, 9A.82.110, or
- 18 9A.82.120, or this section.
- 19 $((\frac{13}{10}))$ (17) A private civil action under this section does not
- 20 limit any other civil or criminal action under this chapter or any
- 21 other provision. Private civil remedies provided under this section
- 22 are supplemental and not mutually exclusive.
- (((14))) (18) Upon motion by the defendant, the court may authorize
- 24 the sale or transfer of assets subject to an order or lien authorized
- 25 by this chapter for the purpose of paying actual attorney's fees and
- 26 costs of defense. The motion shall specify the assets for which sale
- 27 or transfer is sought and shall be accompanied by the defendant's sworn
- 28 statement that the defendant has no other assets available for such
- 29 purposes. No order authorizing such sale or transfer may be entered
- 30 unless the court finds that the assets involved are not subject to

- 1 possible forfeiture under ((RCW 9A.82.100)) <u>subsection</u> (4)(f) <u>of this</u>
- 2 <u>section</u>. Prior to disposition of the motion, the court shall notify
- 3 the state of the assets sought to be sold or transferred and shall hear
- 4 argument on the issue of whether the assets are subject to forfeiture
- 5 under ((RCW 9A.82.100)) subsection (4)(f) of this section. Such a
- 6 motion may be made from time to time and shall be heard by the court on
- 7 an expedited basis.
- 8 $((\frac{15}{15}))$ In an action brought under subsection (1) (a) and
- 9 (b)(i) of this section, either party has the right to a jury trial.
- 10 Sec. 2. RCW 69.50.505 and 1990 c 248 s 2 and 1990 c 213 s 12 are
- 11 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
- 12 (a) The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture and no
- 13 property right exists in them:
- 14 (1) All controlled substances which have been manufactured,
- 15 distributed, dispensed, acquired, or possessed in violation of this
- 16 chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW, and all hazardous chemicals, as
- 17 defined in RCW 64.44.010, used or intended to be used in the
- 18 manufacture of controlled substances;
- 19 (2) All raw materials, products, and equipment of any kind which
- 20 are used, or intended for use, in manufacturing, compounding,
- 21 processing, delivering, importing, or exporting any controlled
- 22 substance in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW;
- 23 (3) All property which is used, or intended for use, as a container
- 24 for property described in paragraphs (1) or (2);
- 25 (4) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels,
- 26 which are used, or intended for use, in any manner to facilitate the
- 27 sale, delivery, or receipt of property described in paragraphs (1) or
- 28 (2), except that:

- 1 (i) No conveyance used by any person as a common carrier in the
- 2 transaction of business as a common carrier is subject to forfeiture
- 3 under this section unless it appears that the owner or other person in
- 4 charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a violation
- 5 of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW;
- 6 (ii) No conveyance is subject to forfeiture under this section by
- 7 reason of any act or omission established by the owner thereof to have
- 8 been committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent;
- 9 (iii) No conveyance is subject to forfeiture under this section if
- 10 used in the receipt of only an amount of marijuana for which possession
- 11 constitutes a misdemeanor under RCW 69.50.401(e);
- 12 (iv) A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a bona fide
- 13 security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if
- 14 the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or
- 15 omission; and
- 16 (v) When the owner of a conveyance has been arrested under this
- 17 chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW the conveyance in which the
- 18 person is arrested may not be subject to forfeiture unless it is seized
- 19 or process is issued for its seizure within ten days of the owner's
- 20 arrest;
- 21 (5) All books, records, and research products and materials,
- 22 including formulas, microfilm, tapes, and data which are used, or
- 23 intended for use, in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or
- 24 69.52 RCW;
- 25 (6) All drug paraphernalia;
- 26 (7) All moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other
- 27 tangible or intangible property of value furnished or intended to be
- 28 furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance in
- 29 violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW, all tangible
- 30 or intangible personal property, proceeds, or assets acquired in whole

- 1 or in part with proceeds traceable to an exchange or series of
- 2 exchanges in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW,
- 3 and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used or intended
- 4 to be used to facilitate any violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41
- 5 or 69.52 RCW: PROVIDED, That a forfeiture of money, negotiable
- 6 instruments, securities, or other tangible or intangible property
- 7 encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest
- 8 of the secured party if, at the time the security interest was created,
- 9 the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or
- 10 omission: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no personal property may be forfeited
- 11 under this paragraph, to the extent of the interest of an owner, by
- 12 reason of any act or omission which that owner establishes was
- 13 committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent; and
- 14 (8) All real property, including any right, title, and interest in
- 15 the whole of any lot or tract of land, and any appurtenances or
- 16 improvements which are being used with the knowledge of the owner for
- 17 the manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivery, importing, or
- 18 exporting of any controlled substance, or which have been acquired in
- 19 whole or in part with proceeds traceable to an exchange or series of
- 20 exchanges in violation of this chapter or chapter 69.41 or 69.52 RCW,
- 21 if such activity is not less than a class C felony and a substantial
- 22 nexus exists between the commercial production or sale of the
- 23 controlled substance and the real property: PROVIDED, That:
- 24 (i) No property may be forfeited pursuant to this subsection, to
- 25 the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or
- 26 omission committed or omitted without the owner's knowledge or consent;
- 27 (ii) The bona fide gift of a controlled substance, legend drug, or
- 28 imitation controlled substance shall not result in the forfeiture of
- 29 real property;

- 1 (iii) The possession of marijuana shall not result in the
- 2 forfeiture of real property unless the marijuana is possessed for
- 3 commercial purposes, the amount possessed is five or more plants or one
- 4 pound or more of marijuana, and a substantial nexus exists between the
- 5 possession of marijuana and the real property. In such a case, the
- 6 intent of the offender shall be determined by the preponderance of the
- 7 evidence, including the offender's prior criminal history, the amount
- 8 of marijuana possessed by the offender, the sophistication of the
- 9 activity or equipment used by the offender, and other evidence which
- 10 demonstrates the offender's intent to engage in commercial activity;
- 11 (iv) The unlawful sale of marijuana or a legend drug shall not
- 12 result in the forfeiture of real property unless the sale was forty
- 13 grams or more in the case of marijuana or one hundred dollars or more
- 14 in the case of a legend drug, and a substantial nexus exists between
- 15 the unlawful sale and the real property; and
- 16 (v) A forfeiture of real property encumbered by a bona fide
- 17 security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if
- 18 the secured party, at the time the security interest was created,
- 19 neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission.
- 20 (b) Real or personal property subject to forfeiture under this
- 21 chapter may be seized by any board inspector or law enforcement officer
- 22 of this state upon process issued by any superior court having
- 23 jurisdiction over the property. Seizure of real property shall include
- 24 the filing of a lis pendens by the seizing agency. Real property
- 25 seized under this section shall not be transferred or otherwise
- 26 conveyed until ninety days after seizure or until a judgment of
- 27 forfeiture is entered, whichever is later: PROVIDED, That real
- 28 property seized under this section may be transferred or conveyed to
- 29 any person or entity who acquires title by foreclosure or deed in lieu

- 1 of foreclosure of a security interest. Seizure of personal property
- 2 without process may be made if:
- 3 (1) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search
- 4 warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant;
- 5 (2) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior
- 6 judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture
- 7 proceeding based upon this chapter;
- 8 (3) A board inspector or law enforcement officer has probable cause
- 9 to believe that the property is directly or indirectly dangerous to
- 10 health or safety; or
- 11 (4) The board inspector or law enforcement officer has probable
- 12 cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used
- 13 in violation of this chapter.
- 14 (c) Whenever any property forfeitable under subsection (a) of this
- 15 <u>section has been commingled with nonforfeitable property, there shall</u>
- 16 be a presumption that the entire commingled property is forfeitable.
- 17 The presumption may be rebutted as to any portion claimed to be
- 18 nonforfeitable by clear and convincing evidence of the independent,
- 19 <u>untainted source of such portion.</u>
- 20 (d) A person or enterprise that acquires, maintains, or uses any
- 21 property so as to make the property forfeitable pursuant to the
- 22 provisions of this section is an involuntary trustee of the property.
- 23 The involuntary trustee and any other person or enterprise, except a
- 24 bona fide purchaser for value reasonably without notice of the unlawful
- 25 conduct and who is not knowingly taking part in an illegal transaction,
- 26 holds the property, its proceeds and its fruits in constructive trust
- 27 for the benefit of persons entitled to remedies under this section.
- 28 (e) If any of the property described in subsection (a) of this
- 29 section, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
- 30 (1) Cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

- 1 (2) Has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third
- 2 party;
- 3 (3) Has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- 4 (4) Has been substantially diminished in value; or
- 5 (5) Has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided
- 6 without difficulty;
- 7 the court shall order the forfeiture of any other property of the
- 8 defendant up to the value of any property described in (1) through (5)
- 9 of this subsection.
- 10 <u>(f)</u> In the event of seizure pursuant to subsection (b), proceedings
- 11 for forfeiture shall be deemed commenced by the seizure. The law
- 12 enforcement agency under whose authority the seizure was made shall
- 13 cause notice to be served within fifteen days following the seizure on
- 14 the owner of the property seized and the person in charge thereof and
- 15 any person having any known right or interest therein, including any
- 16 community property interest, of the seizure and intended forfeiture of
- 17 the seized property. Service of notice of seizure of real property
- 18 shall be made according to the rules of civil procedure. However, the
- 19 state may not obtain a default judgment with respect to real property
- 20 against a party who is served by substituted service absent an
- 21 affidavit stating that a good faith effort has been made to ascertain
- 22 if the defaulted party is incarcerated within the state, and that there
- 23 is no present basis to believe that the party is incarcerated within
- 24 the state. The notice of seizure in other cases may be served by any
- 25 method authorized by law or court rule including but not limited to
- 26 service by certified mail with return receipt requested. Service by
- 27 mail shall be deemed complete upon mailing within the fifteen day
- 28 period following the seizure.
- 29 $((\frac{d}{d}))$ (g) If no person notifies the seizing law enforcement
- 30 agency in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to

- 1 possession of items specified in subsection (a)(4), (a)(7), or (a)(8)
- 2 of this section within forty-five days of the seizure in the case of
- 3 personal property and ninety days in the case of real property, the
- 4 item seized shall be deemed forfeited. The community property interest
- 5 in real property of a person whose spouse committed a violation giving
- 6 rise to seizure of the real property may not be forfeited if the person
- 7 did not participate in the violation.
- 8 (((e))) If any person notifies the seizing law enforcement
- 9 agency in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to
- 10 possession of items specified in subsection (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4),
- 11 (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), or (a)(8) of this section within forty-five
- 12 days of the seizure in the case of personal property and ninety days in
- 13 the case of real property, the person or persons shall be afforded a
- 14 reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The
- 15 hearing shall be before the chief law enforcement officer of the
- 16 seizing agency or the chief law enforcement officer's designee, except
- 17 where the seizing agency is a state agency as defined in RCW
- 18 34.12.020(4), the hearing shall be before the chief law enforcement
- 19 officer of the seizing agency or an administrative law judge appointed
- 20 under chapter 34.12 RCW, except that any person asserting a claim or
- 21 right may remove the matter to a court of competent jurisdiction if the
- 22 aggregate value of the article or articles involved is more than five
- 23 hundred dollars. The court to which the matter is to be removed shall
- 24 be the district court when such aggregate value is ten thousand dollars
- 25 or less of personal property. A hearing before the seizing agency and
- 26 any appeal therefrom shall be under Title 34 RCW. In a court hearing
- 27 between two or more claimants to the article or articles involved, the
- 28 prevailing party shall be entitled to a judgment for costs and
- 29 reasonable attorney's fees. In cases involving personal property, the
- 30 burden of producing evidence shall be upon the person claiming to be

- 1 the lawful owner or the person claiming to have the lawful right to
- 2 possession of the property. In cases involving real property, the
- 3 burden of producing evidence shall be upon the law enforcement agency.
- 4 The burden of proof that the seized real property is subject to
- 5 forfeiture shall be upon the law enforcement agency. The seizing law
- 6 enforcement agency shall promptly return the article or articles to the
- 7 claimant upon a determination by the administrative law judge or court
- 8 that the claimant is the present lawful owner or is lawfully entitled
- 9 to possession thereof of items specified in subsection (a)(2), (a)(3),
- 10 (a)(4), (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), or (a)(8) of this section.
- 11 $((\frac{f}{f}))$ (i) When property is forfeited under this chapter the board
- 12 or seizing law enforcement agency may:
- 13 (1) Retain it for official use or upon application by any law
- 14 enforcement agency of this state release such property to such agency
- 15 for the exclusive use of enforcing the provisions of this chapter;
- 16 (2) (i) Sell that which is not required to be destroyed by law and
- 17 which is not harmful to the public. The proceeds and all moneys
- 18 forfeited under this title shall be used for payment of all proper
- 19 expenses of the investigation leading to the seizure, including any
- 20 money delivered to the subject of the investigation by the law
- 21 enforcement agency, and of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale,
- 22 including expenses of seizure, maintenance of custody, advertising,
- 23 actual costs of the prosecuting or city attorney, and court costs.
- 24 Money remaining after the payment of all expenses shall be distributed
- 25 as follows:
- 26 (A) Twenty-five percent of the money derived from the forfeiture of
- 27 real property and seventy-five percent of the money derived from the
- 28 forfeiture of personal property shall be deposited in the general fund
- 29 of the state, county, and/or city of the seizing law enforcement agency
- 30 and shall be used exclusively for the expansion or improvement of law

- 1 enforcement services. These services may include the creation of
- 2 reward funds for the purpose of rewarding informants who supply
- 3 information leading to the arrest, prosecution and conviction of
- 4 persons who violate laws relating to controlled substances. Such
- 5 moneys shall not supplant preexisting funding sources;
- 6 (B) Twenty-five percent of money derived from the forfeiture of
- 7 real property and twenty-five percent of money derived from the
- 8 forfeiture of personal property shall be remitted to the state
- 9 treasurer for deposit in the public safety and education account
- 10 established in RCW 43.08.250;
- 11 (C) Until July 1, 1995, fifty percent of money derived from the
- 12 forfeiture of real property shall be remitted to the state treasurer
- 13 for deposit in the drug enforcement and education account under RCW
- 14 69.50.520, on and after July 1, 1995, the fifty percent of the money
- 15 shall be remitted in the same manner as the twenty-five percent of the
- 16 money remitted under (2)(i)(A) of this subsection; and
- 17 (D) If an investigation involves a seizure of moneys and proceeds
- 18 having an aggregate value of less than five thousand dollars, the
- 19 moneys and proceeds may be deposited in total in the general fund of
- 20 the governmental unit of the seizing law enforcement agency and shall
- 21 be appropriated exclusively for the expansion of narcotics enforcement
- 22 services. Such moneys shall not supplant preexisting funding sources.
- 23 (ii) Money deposited according to this section must be deposited
- 24 within ninety days of the date of final disposition of either the
- 25 administrative seizure or the judicial seizure;
- 26 (3) Request the appropriate sheriff or director of public safety to
- 27 take custody of the property and remove it for disposition in
- 28 accordance with law; or
- 29 (4) Forward it to the drug enforcement administration for
- 30 disposition.

- 1 $((\frac{g}{g}))$ (j) Controlled substances listed in Schedule I, II, III,
- 2 IV, and V that are possessed, transferred, sold, or offered for sale in
- 3 violation of this chapter are contraband and shall be seized and
- 4 summarily forfeited to the state. Controlled substances listed in
- 5 Schedule I, II, III, IV, and V, which are seized or come into the
- 6 possession of the board, the owners of which are unknown, are
- 7 contraband and shall be summarily forfeited to the board.
- 8 $((\frac{h}{h}))$ <u>(k)</u> Species of plants from which controlled substances in
- 9 Schedules I and II may be derived which have been planted or cultivated
- 10 in violation of this chapter, or of which the owners or cultivators are
- 11 unknown, or which are wild growths, may be seized and summarily
- 12 forfeited to the board.
- 13 $((\frac{1}{2}))$ The failure, upon demand by a board inspector or law
- 14 enforcement officer, of the person in occupancy or in control of land
- 15 or premises upon which the species of plants are growing or being
- 16 stored to produce an appropriate registration or proof that he is the
- 17 holder thereof constitutes authority for the seizure and forfeiture of
- 18 the plants.
- 19 $((\frac{(j)}{j}))$ (m) Upon the entry of an order of forfeiture of real
- 20 property, the court shall forward a copy of the order to the assessor
- 21 of the county in which the property is located. Orders for the
- 22 forfeiture of real property shall be entered by the superior court,
- 23 subject to court rules. Such an order shall be filed by the seizing
- 24 agency in the county auditor's records in the county in which the real
- 25 property is located.