

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 2754

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to court administration.

Brief Description: Authorizing use of closed circuit television in court procedural hearings.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives McMorris, Appelwick, Padden, Campbell, Schoesler, Johanson, Foreman, Mielke, Finkbeiner, Fuhrman, Mastin, Wineberry, Sheahan, L. Thomas, Cooke, Brough and Springer).

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Judiciary, February 2, 1994, DPS;
Passed House, February 9, 1994, 95-0;
Amended by Senate;
House concurred;
Passed Legislature, March 6, 1994, 90-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 14 members: Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Johanson, Vice Chair; Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Chappell; Eide; Forner; J. Kohl; Long; Morris; Schmidt; Scott and Tate.

Staff: Pat Shelledy (786-7149).

Background: To ensure that a procedural hearing is conducted in a timely and secure manner, courts may need or want to conduct procedural hearings in one location when the defendant is located in another location. Some courts have used closed circuit television or other electronic equipment to conduct procedural hearings.

Summary of Bill: The Office of the Administrator for the Courts, under the direction of the chief justice, must authorize the use of closed circuit television and other electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator must establish standards and procedures and provide technical assistance to the courts.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill will greatly reduce costs of transporting offenders, especially juvenile offenders, across large counties for their procedural hearings.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Representative Cathy McMorris, prime sponsor (pro); and Dan LaRoche, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (pro).