
SENATE BILL 5026

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Smith

Read first time 01/09/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to separating the duties of coroner and prosecuting
2 attorney; and amending RCW 36.16.030, 36.17.020, and 36.24.175.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.16.030 and 1991 c 363 ss 46, 47 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Except as provided elsewhere in this section, in every county there
7 shall be elected from among the qualified voters of the county a county
8 assessor, a county auditor, a county clerk, a county coroner, three
9 county commissioners, a county prosecuting attorney, a county sheriff
10 and a county treasurer, except that in each county with a population of
11 less than ((~~forty~~)) twenty thousand no coroner shall be elected and the
12 prosecuting attorney shall be ex officio coroner. Whenever the
13 population of a county increases to ((~~forty~~)) twenty thousand or more,
14 the prosecuting attorney shall continue as ex officio coroner until a
15 coroner is elected, at the next general election at which the office of
16 prosecuting attorney normally would be elected, and assumes office as
17 provided in RCW 29.04.170. In any county where the population has once
18 attained ((~~forty~~)) twenty thousand people and a current coroner is in
19 office and a subsequent census indicates less than ((~~forty~~)) twenty

1 thousand people, the county legislative authority may maintain the
2 office of coroner by resolution or ordinance. If the county
3 legislative authority has not passed a resolution or enacted an
4 ordinance to maintain the office of coroner, the elected coroner shall
5 remain in office for the remainder of the term for which he or she was
6 elected, but no coroner shall be elected at the next election at which
7 that office would otherwise be filled and the prosecuting attorney
8 shall be the ex officio coroner.

9 A noncharter county may have five county commissioners as provided
10 in RCW 36.32.010 and 36.32.055 through 36.32.0558.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.17.020 and 1994 1st sp.s. c 4 s 1 are each amended
12 to read as follows:

13 The county legislative authority of each county is authorized to
14 establish the salaries of the elected officials of the county. One-
15 half of the salary of each prosecuting attorney shall be paid by the
16 state. The annual salary of a county elected official shall not be
17 less than the following:

18 (1) In each county with a population of one million or more:
19 Auditor, clerk, treasurer, sheriff, members of the county legislative
20 authority, and coroner, eighteen thousand dollars; assessor, nineteen
21 thousand dollars; and prosecuting attorney, thirty thousand three
22 hundred dollars;

23 (2) In each county with a population of from two hundred ten
24 thousand to less than one million: Auditor, seventeen thousand six
25 hundred dollars; clerk, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars;
26 treasurer, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; sheriff, nineteen
27 thousand five hundred dollars; assessor, seventeen thousand six hundred
28 dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-four thousand eight hundred
29 dollars; members of the county legislative authority, nineteen thousand
30 five hundred dollars; and coroner, seventeen thousand six hundred
31 dollars;

32 (3) In each county with a population of from one hundred twenty-
33 five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand: Auditor, sixteen
34 thousand dollars; clerk, sixteen thousand dollars; treasurer, sixteen
35 thousand dollars; sheriff, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars;
36 assessor, sixteen thousand dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-four
37 thousand eight hundred dollars; members of the county legislative

1 authority, seventeen thousand six hundred dollars; and coroner, sixteen
2 thousand dollars;

3 (4) In each county with a population of from seventy thousand to
4 less than one hundred twenty-five thousand: Auditor, fourteen thousand
5 nine hundred dollars; clerk, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars;
6 treasurer, fourteen thousand nine hundred dollars; assessor, fourteen
7 thousand nine hundred dollars; sheriff, fourteen thousand nine hundred
8 dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-three thousand seven hundred
9 dollars; members of the county legislative authority, fourteen thousand
10 nine hundred dollars; and coroner, fourteen thousand nine hundred
11 dollars;

12 (5) In each county with a population of from forty thousand to less
13 than seventy thousand: Auditor, thirteen thousand eight hundred
14 dollars; clerk, thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; treasurer,
15 thirteen thousand eight hundred dollars; assessor, thirteen thousand
16 eight hundred dollars; sheriff, thirteen thousand eight hundred
17 dollars; prosecuting attorney, twenty-three thousand seven hundred
18 dollars; members of the county legislative authority, thirteen thousand
19 eight hundred dollars; and coroner, thirteen thousand eight hundred
20 dollars;

21 (6) In each county with a population of from eighteen thousand to
22 less than forty thousand: Auditor, twelve thousand one hundred
23 dollars; clerk, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, twelve
24 thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, twelve thousand one hundred
25 dollars; assessor, twelve thousand one hundred dollars; prosecuting
26 attorney in such a county in which there is no state university or
27 college, fourteen thousand three hundred dollars; in such a county in
28 which there is a state university or college, sixteen thousand five
29 hundred dollars; ~~((and))~~ members of the county legislative authority,
30 eleven thousand dollars; and coroner, twelve thousand one hundred
31 dollars;

32 (7) In each county with a population of from twelve thousand to
33 less than eighteen thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred
34 dollars; clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten
35 thousand one hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred
36 dollars; sheriff, eleven thousand two hundred dollars; prosecuting
37 attorney, thirteen thousand two hundred dollars; and members of the
38 county legislative authority, nine thousand four hundred dollars;

1 (8) In each county with a population of from eight thousand to less
2 than twelve thousand: Auditor, ten thousand one hundred dollars;
3 clerk, ten thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, ten thousand one
4 hundred dollars; assessor, ten thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff,
5 eleven thousand two hundred dollars; prosecuting attorney, nine
6 thousand nine hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative
7 authority, seven thousand dollars;

8 (9) In each county with a population of from five thousand to less
9 than eight thousand: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred dollars;
10 clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine thousand one
11 hundred dollars; assessor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff,
12 ten thousand five hundred dollars; prosecuting attorney, nine thousand
13 nine hundred dollars; and members of the county legislative authority,
14 six thousand five hundred dollars;

15 (10) In each other county: Auditor, nine thousand one hundred
16 dollars; clerk, nine thousand one hundred dollars; treasurer, nine
17 thousand one hundred dollars; sheriff, ten thousand five hundred
18 dollars; assessor, nine thousand one hundred dollars; prosecuting
19 attorney, nine thousand nine hundred dollars; and members of the county
20 legislative authority, six thousand five hundred dollars.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.24.175 and 1991 c 363 s 54 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 In each county with a population of (~~forty~~) twenty thousand or
24 more, no person shall be qualified for the office of county coroner as
25 provided for in RCW 36.16.030 who is an owner or employee of any
26 funeral home or mortuary.

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