

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

Bill No. ESB 5600
(See HB 2074)

Internal Operations of Counties
Brief title

Public Arg: 3/25/97

Senator Hale/Haugen/Johnson
Sponsor

Staff Contact S. Lundin
Comm. on Govt. Admin.
Phone: 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

A county may pay salaries of all but its officers and employees either monthly or twice a month. However, the salary of a superior court judge may be paid only once a month and it may not be paid until that judge has disposed of all causes that remain pending and undecided in his or her court.

All county budget appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year except that all appropriation accounts are to remain open for a period of 30 days after the fiscal year ends for the payment of claims incurred against such appropriations prior to the close of the fiscal year.

In lieu of adopting an annual budget, a county legislative authority may adopt an ordinance providing for biennial budgets for all county funds with a mid-biennium review and modification for the second year of the biennium.

A county legislative authority may make supplemental appropriations as a result of unanticipated federal or state funds. A county legislative authority may also make emergency appropriations for unforeseen emergencies.

Except for emergency expenditures, a county may not expend or incur any liability from the county road fund in an amount in excess of 80 percent of the county road levy for that year until receipts in excess of that amount have been received. Any expenditures above this 80 percent figure may only be made if the money has been received.

Continued

Under certain circumstances the administration of juvenile probation counsel and detention services may be transferred from the superior court to other authorities.

SUMMARY:

The county auditor of each county must pay superior court judges in the same means and manner provided for all the elected county officials.

The time a county auditor may keep accounts open after the end of the fiscal year to pay claims incurred against the appropriations is to the close of the fiscal year is increased from 30 to 60 days.

In lieu of adopting an annual or biennial budget for all county funds, a county legislative authority may provide for a biennial budget for any of its funds in the same manner as for adopting a biennial budget for all county funds.

Counties are authorized to make supplemental appropriations as a result of unanticipated funds from local revenue sources in addition to unanticipated federal or state funds.

In addition to existing exceptions for the administration of juvenile probation counsel and detention services, the county legislative authority of any county with a population of from 250,000 to less than 500,000 may provide by ordinance for an alternative administration of juvenile probation counsel and detention services.

The statute is repealed that restricts a county from expending or incurring the liability to expend county road funds in excess of 80 percent of the county road levy until such funds have been collected.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bills passed.