

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1872

As Reported By House Committee On:
Judiciary

Title: An act relating to granting state-wide warrant jurisdiction to courts of limited jurisdiction.

Brief Description: Granting state-wide warrant jurisdiction to courts of limited jurisdiction.

Sponsors: Representatives Hurst, Lambert, Lovick, O'Brien and Carrell.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Judiciary: 2/23/99, 2/26/99 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Grants a court of limited jurisdiction the authority to take recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants on warrants issued by courts of limited jurisdiction from other jurisdictions.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Carrell, Republican Co-Chair; Constantine, Democratic Co-Chair; Hurst, Democratic Vice Chair; Lambert, Republican Vice Chair; Cox; Dickerson; Esser; Lantz; Lovick; McDonald and Schindler.

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

Warrants issued by a superior court are enforceable throughout the state. However, warrants issued by a court of limited jurisdiction (a district court or municipal court) are only enforceable within the jurisdiction of the issuing court. In other words, a municipal court in King County may not enforce a warrant issued by a municipal court in Spokane County.

Summary of Bill:

A court of limited jurisdiction may take recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants on warrants issued by courts of limited jurisdiction from other jurisdictions.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 19, 1999.

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

Testimony For: Many warrants are not executed because many jurisdictions are unwilling to pay the expenses associated with extraditing a defendant. This bill would save time and money by allowing a court of limited jurisdiction to resolve certain matters involving arrest warrants regardless of where the warrant was issued.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Hurst, prime sponsor; and Melanie Stewart, District and Municipal Court Judges Association.