

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 2799

As Passed Legislature

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: By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Lambert, Hurst, Kagi, Benson, Lovick and Pflug).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Judiciary: 2/1/00, 2/3/00 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/9/00, 97-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 3/3/00, 45-0.

House Concurred.

Passed House: 3/6/00, 98-0.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires the Office of the Administrator for the Courts to establish a pilot program that allows courts of limited jurisdiction to enter into agreements with other courts of limited jurisdiction in the state for the processing of each other's warrants.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Carrell, Republican Co-Chair; Constantine, Democratic Co-Chair; Hurst, Democratic Vice Chair; Lambert, Republican Vice Chair; Cox; Dickerson; Esser; Kastama; Lantz; Lovick; McDonald and Schindler.

Staff: Trudes Hutcheson (786-7384).

Background:

District and municipal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. In criminal matters, district courts have jurisdiction over misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses committed within the county and over violations of city ordinances. Municipal courts have jurisdiction over matters arising from city ordinances and concurrent jurisdiction with district courts over misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses.

Warrants issued by a court of limited jurisdiction are enforceable within the jurisdiction of the issuing court.

Summary of Bill:

The Office of the Administrator for the Courts (OAC) must establish a pilot program for the statewide processing of warrants issued by courts of limited jurisdiction. The OAC must establish procedures and criteria for courts of limited jurisdiction to enter into agreements with other courts of limited jurisdiction in the state to process each other's warrants when the defendant is within the processing court's jurisdiction. The OAC must establish a formula for allocating, between the court that processed the warrant and the court that issued the warrant, any money or costs collected. The OAC must report to the Legislature by June 1, 2003 regarding the effectiveness and costs of the pilot program.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 30, 2000.

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

Testimony For: Outstanding warrants are a critical problem. It is frustrating to have to release a defendant who is subject to a bench warrant, but the court cannot hold the defendant because the warrant was issued from a different court in a different county. There are several neighboring counties that are ready to implement this program. Giving courts the authority to process each other's warrants will make the judges' jobs easier.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Lambert, prime sponsor; Judge Robert McBeth, King County District Court, Renton Division; and Judge Peter Lukevich, King County

Municipal Court, Tukwila.