
HOUSE BILL 2799

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Lambert, Hurst, Kagi, Benson, Lovick and Pflug

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to granting state-wide warrant jurisdiction to
2 courts of limited jurisdiction; amending RCW 3.66.010, 3.66.060,
3 3.66.070, 3.46.030, 3.50.020, and 35.20.030; and creating a new
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The administrator for the courts shall
7 establish a pilot program for the efficient state-wide processing of
8 warrants issued by courts of limited jurisdiction. The pilot program
9 shall contain procedures and criteria for courts of limited
10 jurisdiction to enter into agreements with other courts of limited
11 jurisdiction throughout the state to process each other's warrants when
12 the defendant is within the processing court's jurisdiction. The
13 administrator for the courts shall establish a formula for allocating
14 between the court processing the warrant and the court that issued the
15 warrant any moneys collected and costs associated with the processing
16 of warrants.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 3.66.010 and 1984 c 258 s 40 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

1 (1) The justices of the peace elected in accordance with chapters
2 3.30 through 3.74 RCW are authorized to hold court as judges of the
3 district court for the trial of all actions enumerated in chapters 3.30
4 through 3.74 RCW or assigned to the district court by law; to hear,
5 try, and determine the same according to the law, and for that purpose
6 where no special provision is otherwise made by law, such court shall
7 be vested with all the necessary powers which are possessed by courts
8 of record in this state; and all laws of a general nature shall apply
9 to such district court as far as the same may be applicable and not
10 inconsistent with the provisions of chapters 3.30 through 3.74 RCW.
11 The district court shall, upon the demand of either party, impanel a
12 jury to try any civil or criminal case in accordance with the
13 provisions of chapter 12.12 RCW. No jury trial may be held in a
14 proceeding involving a traffic infraction.

15 (2) The district court shall have state-wide jurisdiction to take
16 recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within the
17 jurisdiction on warrants issued by any judicial officer of a court of
18 limited jurisdiction within the state.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 3.66.060 and 1984 c 258 s 44 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 The district court shall have jurisdiction: (1) Concurrent with
22 the superior court of all misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors committed
23 in their respective counties and of all violations of city ordinances.
24 It shall in no event impose a greater punishment than a fine of five
25 thousand dollars, or imprisonment for one year in the county or city
26 jail as the case may be, or both such fine and imprisonment, unless
27 otherwise expressly provided by statute. It may suspend and revoke
28 vehicle operators' licenses in the cases provided by law; (2) to sit as
29 a committing magistrate and conduct preliminary hearings in cases
30 provided by law; (3) concurrent with the superior court of a proceeding
31 to keep the peace in their respective counties; (4) concurrent with the
32 superior court of all violations under Title 75 RCW; ~~((and))~~ (5) to
33 hear and determine traffic infractions under chapter 46.63 RCW; and (6)
34 to take recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within
35 the jurisdiction on warrants issued by any judicial officer of a court
36 of limited jurisdiction within the state.

1 **Sec. 4.** RCW 3.66.070 and 1991 c 290 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 All criminal actions shall be brought in the district where the
4 alleged violation occurred: PROVIDED, That (1) the prosecuting
5 attorney may file felony cases in the district in which the county seat
6 is located, (2) with the consent of the defendant criminal actions
7 other than those arising out of violations of city ordinances may be
8 brought in or transferred to the district in which the county seat is
9 located, (~~and~~) (3) if the alleged violation relates to driving, or
10 being in actual physical control of, a motor vehicle while under the
11 influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug and the alleged violation
12 occurred within a judicial district which has been designated an
13 enhanced enforcement district under RCW 2.56.110, the charges may be
14 filed in that district or in a district within the same county which is
15 adjacent to the district in which the alleged violation occurred, and
16 (4) the district court shall have state-wide jurisdiction to take
17 recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within the
18 jurisdiction on warrants issued by any judicial officer of a court of
19 limited jurisdiction within the state.

20 **Sec. 5.** RCW 3.46.030 and 1985 c 303 s 13 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 A municipal department shall have exclusive jurisdiction of matters
23 arising from ordinances of the city, state-wide jurisdiction to take
24 recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within the
25 jurisdiction on warrants issued by any judicial officer of a court of
26 limited jurisdiction within the state, and no jurisdiction of other
27 matters except as conferred by statute.

28 **Sec. 6.** RCW 3.50.020 and 1985 c 303 s 14 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 The municipal court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over
31 traffic infractions arising under city ordinances and exclusive
32 original criminal jurisdiction of all violations of city ordinances
33 duly adopted by the city in which the municipal court is located and
34 shall have original jurisdiction of all other actions brought to
35 enforce or recover license penalties or forfeitures declared or given
36 by such ordinances or by state statutes. The municipal court shall
37 also have the jurisdiction as conferred by statute. The municipal

1 court is empowered to forfeit cash bail or bail bonds and issue
2 execution thereon; and in general to hear and determine all causes,
3 civil or criminal, including traffic infractions, arising under such
4 ordinances and to pronounce judgment in accordance therewith. The
5 municipal court may take recognizance, approve bail, and arraign
6 defendants held within the jurisdiction on warrants issued by any
7 judicial officer of a court of limited jurisdiction within the state.

8 **Sec. 7.** RCW 35.20.030 and 1993 c 83 s 3 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 The municipal court shall have jurisdiction to try violations of
11 all city ordinances and all other actions brought to enforce or recover
12 license penalties or forfeitures declared or given by any such
13 ordinances. It is empowered to forfeit cash bail or bail bonds and
14 issue execution thereon, to hear and determine all causes, civil or
15 criminal, arising under such ordinances, and to pronounce judgment in
16 accordance therewith: PROVIDED, That for a violation of the criminal
17 provisions of an ordinance no greater punishment shall be imposed than
18 a fine of five thousand dollars or imprisonment in the city jail not to
19 exceed one year, or both such fine and imprisonment, but the punishment
20 for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment provided
21 in state law for the same crime. All civil and criminal proceedings in
22 municipal court, and judgments rendered therein, shall be subject to
23 review in the superior court by writ of review or on appeal: PROVIDED,
24 That an appeal from the court's determination or order in a traffic
25 infraction proceeding may be taken only in accordance with RCW
26 46.63.090(5). Costs in civil and criminal cases may be taxed as
27 provided in district courts. The municipal court may take
28 recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within the
29 jurisdiction on warrants issued by any judicial officer of a court of
30 limited jurisdiction within the state.

--- END ---