
SENATE BILL 5765

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Costa, Johnson, Wojahn and McCaslin

Read first time 02/08/1999. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

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

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 3.66.010 and 1984 c 258 s 40 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

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

1 provisions of chapter 12.12 RCW. No jury trial may be held in a
2 proceeding involving a traffic infraction.

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

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 3.66.060 and 1984 c 258 s 44 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

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

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 3.66.070 and 1991 c 290 s 2 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 All criminal actions shall be brought in the district where the
28 alleged violation occurred: PROVIDED, That (1) the prosecuting
29 attorney may file felony cases in the district in which the county seat
30 is located, (2) with the consent of the defendant criminal actions
31 other than those arising out of violations of city ordinances may be
32 brought in or transferred to the district in which the county seat is
33 located, ~~((and))~~ (3) if the alleged violation relates to driving, or
34 being in actual physical control of, a motor vehicle while under the
35 influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug and the alleged violation
36 occurred within a judicial district which has been designated an
37 enhanced enforcement district under RCW 2.56.110, the charges may be

1 filed in that district or in a district within the same county which is
2 adjacent to the district in which the alleged violation occurred, and
3 (4) the district court shall have state-wide jurisdiction to take
4 recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within the
5 jurisdiction on warrants issued by any judicial officer of a court of
6 limited jurisdiction within the state.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 3.46.030 and 1985 c 303 s 13 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 A municipal department shall have exclusive jurisdiction of matters
10 arising from ordinances of the city, shall have state-wide jurisdiction
11 to take recognizance, approve bail, and arraign defendants held within
12 the jurisdiction on warrants issued by any judicial officer of a court
13 of limited jurisdiction within the state, and no jurisdiction of other
14 matters except as conferred by statute.

15 **Sec. 5.** RCW 3.50.020 and 1985 c 303 s 14 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 The municipal court shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over
18 traffic infractions arising under city ordinances and exclusive
19 original criminal jurisdiction of all violations of city ordinances
20 duly adopted by the city in which the municipal court is located and
21 shall have original jurisdiction of all other actions brought to
22 enforce or recover license penalties or forfeitures declared or given
23 by such ordinances or by state statutes. The municipal court shall
24 also have the jurisdiction as conferred by statute. The municipal
25 court is empowered to forfeit cash bail or bail bonds and issue
26 execution thereon; and in general to hear and determine all causes,
27 civil or criminal, including traffic infractions, arising under such
28 ordinances and to pronounce judgment in accordance therewith. The
29 municipal court may take recognizance, approve bail, and arraign
30 defendants held within the jurisdiction on warrants issued by any
31 judicial officer of a court of limited jurisdiction within the state.

32 **Sec. 6.** RCW 35.20.030 and 1993 c 83 s 3 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 The municipal court shall have jurisdiction to try violations of
35 all city ordinances and all other actions brought to enforce or recover
36 license penalties or forfeitures declared or given by any such

1 ordinances. It is empowered to forfeit cash bail or bail bonds and
2 issue execution thereon, to hear and determine all causes, civil or
3 criminal, arising under such ordinances, and to pronounce judgment in
4 accordance therewith: PROVIDED, That for a violation of the criminal
5 provisions of an ordinance no greater punishment shall be imposed than
6 a fine of five thousand dollars or imprisonment in the city jail not to
7 exceed one year, or both such fine and imprisonment, but the punishment
8 for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment provided
9 in state law for the same crime. All civil and criminal proceedings in
10 municipal court, and judgments rendered therein, shall be subject to
11 review in the superior court by writ of review or on appeal: PROVIDED,
12 That an appeal from the court's determination or order in a traffic
13 infraction proceeding may be taken only in accordance with RCW
14 46.63.090(5). Costs in civil and criminal cases may be taxed as
15 provided in district courts. The municipal court may 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.

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