
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1275

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Lantz and Esser; by request of Administrator for the Courts)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to the administrator for the courts; amending
2 RCW 2.56.010, 2.56.020, and 2.56.030; and making an appropriation.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.56.010 and 1984 c 20 s 1 are each amended to read as
5 follows:

6 There shall be a state office to be known as the office of
7 administrator for the courts who shall be appointed by the supreme
8 court of this state from a list of five persons submitted by the
9 governor of the state of Washington, and shall hold office at the
10 pleasure of the appointing power. ~~((He shall not be over the age of
11 sixty years at the time of his appointment. He shall receive a))~~
12 The administrator's salary ~~((to))~~ shall be fixed by the supreme
13 court.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.56.020 and 1957 c 259 s 2 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 The administrator for the courts, with the approval of the
17 chief justice of the supreme court of this state, shall appoint

1 and fix the compensation of such assistants as are necessary to
2 enable (~~((him to perform))~~) performance of the power and duties
3 vested in (~~((him. During his term of office or employment,))~~) the
4 office of administrator for the courts. Neither the administrator
5 nor any assistant shall engage (~~((directly or indirectly))~~) in the
6 practice of law for remuneration in this state. This section does
7 not prohibit the administrator or an assistant from providing pro
8 bono legal services or from providing legal services for himself
9 or herself or immediate family members.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 2.56.030 and 1997 c 41 s 2 are each amended to read as
11 follows:

12 The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision
13 and direction of the chief justice:

14 (1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in
15 the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of
16 the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice,
17 for the improvement of the same;

18 (2) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts and
19 determine the need for assistance by any court;

20 (3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the
21 assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and
22 carry out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments
23 of judges to counties and districts where the courts are in need
24 of assistance;

25 (4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make
26 reports of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the
27 same to the chief justice to the end that proper action may be
28 taken in respect thereto;

29 (5) Prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations
30 necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system
31 and make recommendations in respect thereto;

32 (6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports
33 relating to the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for
34 the maintenance and operation of the judicial system and the
35 offices connected therewith;

36 (7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law
37 or rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and

1 other judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond
2 periods of time specified by law or rules of court and make report
3 thereof to supreme court of this state;

4 (8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in
5 RCW 2.56.060;

6 (9) Submit annually, as of February 1st, to the chief justice,
7 a report of the activities of the administrator's office for the
8 preceding calendar year including activities related to courthouse
9 security;

10 (10) Administer programs and standards for the training and
11 education of judicial personnel;

12 (11) Examine the need for new superior court and district judge
13 positions under a weighted caseload analysis that takes into
14 account the time required to hear all the cases in a particular
15 court and the amount of time existing judges have available to
16 hear cases in that court. The results of the weighted caseload
17 analysis shall be reviewed by the board for judicial
18 administration which shall make recommendations to the
19 legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that weighted
20 caseload analysis become the basis for creating additional
21 district court positions, and recommendations should address that
22 objective;

23 (12) Provide staff to the judicial retirement account plan
24 under chapter 2.14 RCW;

25 (13) Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the
26 supreme court of this state;

27 (14) Within available funds, develop a curriculum for a general
28 understanding of child development, placement, and treatment
29 resources, as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of
30 relevant statutes including chapters 13.32A, 13.34, and 13.40 RCW,
31 cases, court rules, interviewing skills, and special needs of the
32 abused or neglected child. This curriculum shall be completed and
33 made available to all juvenile court judges, court personnel, and
34 service providers and be updated yearly to reflect changes in
35 statutes, court rules, or case law;

36 (15) Develop, in consultation with the entities set forth in
37 RCW 2.56.150(3), a comprehensive statewide curriculum for persons
38 who act as guardians ad litem under Title 13 or 26 RCW. The

1 curriculum shall be made available July 1, 1997, and include
2 specialty sections on child development, child sexual abuse, child
3 physical abuse, child neglect, clinical and forensic investigative
4 and interviewing techniques, family reconciliation and mediation
5 services, and relevant statutory and legal requirements. The
6 curriculum shall be made available to all superior court judges,
7 court personnel, and all persons who act as guardians ad litem;

8 (16) Develop a curriculum for a general understanding of crimes
9 of malicious harassment, as well as specific legal skills and
10 knowledge of RCW 9A.36.080, relevant cases, court rules, and the
11 special needs of malicious harassment victims. This curriculum
12 shall be made available to all superior court and court of appeals
13 judges and to all justices of the supreme court;

14 (17) Develop, in consultation with the criminal justice
15 training commission and the commissions established under chapters
16 43.113, 43.115, and 43.117 RCW, a curriculum for a general
17 understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity and its
18 implications for working with youth of color and their families.
19 The curriculum shall be available to all superior court judges and
20 court commissioners assigned to juvenile court, and other court
21 personnel. Ethnic and cultural diversity training shall be provided
22 annually so as to incorporate cultural sensitivity and awareness
23 into the daily operation of juvenile courts statewide;

24 (18) Authorize the use of closed circuit television and other
25 electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator
26 shall promulgate necessary standards and procedures and shall
27 provide technical assistance to courts as required;

28 (19) Periodically undertake an assessment of the unmet civil
29 legal needs of low-income people in the state, including the needs
30 of persons who suffer disparate access barriers, and develop a
31 funding plan to meet the civil legal needs of such persons. The
32 assessment should be conducted in consultation with the Washington
33 state bar association and the access to justice board;

34 (20) Administer state funds as may be appropriated for
35 improving the operation of the courts and provide support for
36 court coordinating councils, under the direction of the board for
37 judicial administration.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars,
2 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
3 biennium ending June 30, 2003, from the public safety and
4 education account to the office of administrator for the courts,
5 under the direction of the board of judicial administration,
6 solely for the support of court coordinating council planning
7 activities.

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