
HOUSE BILL 2627

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Lantz, Carrell and Rockefeller; by request of
Administrative Office of the Courts

Read first time 01/19/2004. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to estimating the need for judicial positions; and
2 amending RCW 2.56.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.56.030 and 2002 c 49 s 2 are each amended to read as
5 follows:

6 The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision and
7 direction of the chief justice:

8 (1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in the
9 offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of the
10 courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice, for the
11 improvement of the same;

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

14 (3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the
15 assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and carry
16 out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments of judges
17 to counties and districts where the courts are in need of assistance;

18 (4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make reports

1 of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the same to the
2 chief justice to the end that proper action may be taken in respect
3 thereto;

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

7 (6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports relating to
8 the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for the maintenance
9 and operation of the judicial system and the offices connected
10 therewith;

11 (7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law or
12 rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and other
13 judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond periods of
14 time specified by law or rules of court and make report thereof to
15 supreme court of this state;

16 (8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in RCW
17 2.56.060;

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

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

24 (11) Examine the need for (~~new~~) superior court and district court
25 judge positions under (~~a weighted caseload~~) an objective workload
26 analysis (~~that takes into account the time required to hear all the~~
27 ~~cases in a particular court and the amount of time existing judges have~~
28 ~~available to hear cases in that court~~). The results of the (~~weighted~~
29 ~~easeload~~) objective workload analysis shall be reviewed by the board
30 for judicial administration which shall make recommendations to the
31 legislature. It is the intent of the legislature that (~~weighted~~
32 ~~easeload~~) an objective workload analysis become the basis for
33 (~~creating additional~~) estimating the need for district and superior
34 court positions, and recommendations should address that objective;

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

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

1 (14) Within available funds, develop a curriculum for a general
2 understanding of child development, placement, and treatment resources,
3 as well as specific legal skills and knowledge of relevant statutes
4 including chapters 13.32A, 13.34, and 13.40 RCW, cases, court rules,
5 interviewing skills, and special needs of the abused or neglected
6 child. This curriculum shall be completed and made available to all
7 juvenile court judges, court personnel, and service providers and be
8 updated yearly to reflect changes in statutes, court rules, or case
9 law;

10 (15) Develop, in consultation with the entities set forth in RCW
11 2.56.150(3), a comprehensive statewide curriculum for persons who act
12 as guardians ad litem under Title 13 or 26 RCW. The curriculum shall
13 be made available July 1, 1997, and include specialty sections on child
14 development, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child neglect,
15 clinical and forensic investigative and interviewing techniques, family
16 reconciliation and mediation services, and relevant statutory and legal
17 requirements. The curriculum shall be made available to all superior
18 court judges, court personnel, and all persons who act as guardians ad
19 litem;

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

26 (17) Develop, in consultation with the criminal justice training
27 commission and the commissions established under chapters 43.113,
28 43.115, and 43.117 RCW, a curriculum for a general understanding of
29 ethnic and cultural diversity and its implications for working with
30 youth of color and their families. The curriculum shall be available
31 to all superior court judges and court commissioners assigned to
32 juvenile court, and other court personnel. Ethnic and cultural
33 diversity training shall be provided annually so as to incorporate
34 cultural sensitivity and awareness into the daily operation of juvenile
35 courts statewide;

36 (18) Authorize the use of closed circuit television and other
37 electronic equipment in judicial proceedings. The administrator shall

1 promulgate necessary standards and procedures and shall provide
2 technical assistance to courts as required;
3 (19) Develop a Washington family law handbook in accordance with
4 RCW 2.56.180.

--- END ---