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HOUSE BILL 1934

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Lantz, Pedersen, Ormsby, Ericks and Wood

Read first time 02/01/2007. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to the duties of the director of the office of  
2 civil legal aid; and amending RCW 2.53.020.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.53.020 and 2005 c 105 s 5 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) There is created an office of civil legal aid as an independent  
7 agency of the judicial branch.

8            (2) Activities of the office of civil legal aid shall be carried  
9 out by a director of civil legal aid services. The director of civil  
10 legal aid services shall be appointed by the supreme court from a list  
11 of three names forwarded by the access to justice board.  
12 Qualifications for the director include admission to practice law in  
13 this state for at least five years; experience in representation of  
14 low-income people in civil matters, which experience may be in the form  
15 of volunteer representation; knowledge of and demonstrated commitment  
16 to promoting access to the civil justice system for indigent persons;  
17 and proven managerial or supervisory experience. The director shall  
18 serve at the pleasure of the supreme court and receive a salary to be  
19 fixed by the oversight committee.

- 1           (3) The director shall:
- 2           (a) Contract with one or more qualified legal aid providers to  
3 provide civil legal aid services authorized by RCW 2.53.030;
- 4           (b) (~~Monitor~~) Administer, support, and oversee the use of state  
5 funding to ensure efficient and effective delivery of state funded  
6 civil legal aid and compliance with this chapter;
- 7           (c) Report quarterly to the civil legal aid oversight committee  
8 established in RCW 2.53.010 and the supreme court's access to justice  
9 board on the use of state funds for legal aid; and report biennially on  
10 the status of access to the civil justice system for low-income people  
11 eligible for state-funded legal aid; and
- 12           (d) Submit a biennial budget request.
- 13           (4) The office shall not provide direct representation of clients.

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