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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5151**

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**State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session**

**By Senate Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Kline, Rockefeller, and Kohl-Welles)**

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/09.

1            AN ACT Relating to the appointment of court commissioners to assist  
2 with criminal cases; and amending RCW 2.24.010.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.24.010 and 1990 c 191 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) There may be appointed in each county or judicial district, by  
7 the judges of the superior court having jurisdiction therein, one or  
8 more court commissioners for said county or judicial district. Each  
9 such commissioner shall be a citizen of the United States and shall  
10 hold the office during the pleasure of the judges making the  
11 appointment.

12            (2)(a) There may be appointed in counties with a population of more  
13 than four hundred thousand, by the presiding judge of the superior  
14 court having jurisdiction therein, one or more attorneys to act as  
15 criminal commissioners to assist the superior court in disposing of  
16 adult criminal cases. Such criminal commissioners shall have power,  
17 authority, and jurisdiction, concurrent with the superior court and the  
18 judges thereof, in adult criminal cases, to preside over arraignments,  
19 preliminary appearances, initial extradition hearings, and

1 noncompliance proceedings pursuant to RCW 9.94A.6333; accept pleas if  
2 authorized by local court rules; appoint counsel; make determinations  
3 of probable cause; set, amend, and review conditions of pretrial  
4 release; set bail; set trial and hearing dates; authorize continuances;  
5 and accept waivers of the right to speedy trial.

6 (b) The county legislative authority must approve the creation of  
7 criminal commissioner positions.

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