
SENATE BILL 5970

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator Carrell

Read first time 02/11/09. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to telephonic hearings in civil cases and traffic
2 cases; and adding new sections to chapter 3.02 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to promote
5 uniformity in the procedures and practices related to telephonic
6 hearings in civil cases and traffic cases in the courts of limited
7 jurisdiction. In order to improve access to the courts and reduce
8 litigation costs, the courts of limited jurisdiction shall permit
9 telephonic hearings at appropriate proceedings in civil cases and
10 traffic cases.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of
12 this section, in all civil cases and traffic cases, a party that has
13 provided notice to the court may participate by telephone in lieu of
14 personal appearance in the following proceedings: All motions except
15 motions in limine; trial assignments; show cause proceedings; status
16 conferences; compliance and review hearings; and any other proceeding,
17 if the court determines that participation by telephone is appropriate.

1 (2) The court may require a party to appear in person at a
2 proceeding listed in subsection (1) of this section if the court finds
3 that a personal appearance would materially assist in the determination
4 of the proceeding or in the effective management or resolution of a
5 case.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The administrator for the courts shall
7 develop rules to implement section 2 of this act by December 30, 2009.
8 The rules shall include, but are not limited to, the notice to be given
9 by a party requesting to participate in a proceeding by telephone; the
10 manner in which a proceeding by telephone is to be conducted; the
11 conditions required for a party to be permitted to participate in a
12 proceeding by telephone; and the use by the courts of private vendors
13 to provide telephone services.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
15 added to chapter 3.02 RCW.

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