

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5523

---

---

As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Law & Justice, February 10, 2015

**Title:** An act relating to process server registration.

**Brief Description:** Removing the requirement that a process server disclose a social security number when registering.

**Sponsors:** Senators Sheldon, Rivers, Angel, Schoesler, Padden, Becker, Warnick, Honeyford and Roach.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Law & Justice: 2/03/15, 2/10/15 [DP, DNP, w/oRec].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Padden, Chair; O'Ban, Vice Chair; Darneille, Pearson and Roach.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Pedersen, Ranking Minority Member.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Kohl-Welles.

**Staff:** Tim Ford (786-7423)

**Background:** People who serve legal process for a fee in Washington must be at least 18 years of age, be a resident of Washington, and register as a process server with the auditor of the county where the process server resides or operates their business. The county auditor uses a registration form and current law requires the following information regarding the process server to be included:

- name;
- birth date;
- social security number;
- business name;
- business address; and
- business telephone number.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The residency and registration requirements do not apply to:

- a sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, constable, or government employee who is acting in the course of employment;
- an attorney or the attorney's employees, who are not serving process on a fee basis;
- a person who is court appointed to serve the court's process;
- a person who does not receive a fee or wage for serving process; or
- a licensed private investigator.

**Summary of Bill:** A process server is not required to provide their social security number in the auditor's registration form.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** OTHER: Federal law requires the collection of social security numbers for professional licenses as a precondition for child enforcement support monies that the states receive from the federal government. The registration may become the license and it is being researched.

**Persons Testifying:** OTHER: Monty Cobb, WA Assn. of County Officials.