

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESB 5523

As Passed Senate, March 4, 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].
Passed Senate: 3/04/15, 47-1.

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 Engrossed Bill: Social security numbers on process server registration forms are confidential and exempt from public disclosure except as required by federal law.

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.