

---

HOUSE BILL 1601

---

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative Rodne

Read first time 01/23/15. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to venue of actions by or against counties; and  
2 amending RCW 36.01.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.01.050 and 2005 c 282 s 42 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) All actions against any county may be commenced in the  
7 superior court of such county, or in the superior court of either of  
8 the two nearest judicial districts. All actions by any county shall  
9 be commenced in the superior court of the county in which the  
10 defendant resides, or in either of the two judicial districts nearest  
11 to the county bringing the action.

12 (2) The determination of the nearest judicial districts is  
13 measured by the travel time between county seats using major surface  
14 routes, as determined by the administrative office of the courts.

15 (3) Any provision in a public works contract with any county that  
16 requires actions arising under the contract to be commenced in the  
17 superior court of the county is against public policy and the  
18 provision is void and unenforceable. This subsection shall not be

1 construed to void any contract provision requiring a dispute arising  
2 under the contract to be submitted to arbitration.

--- END ---