
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1127

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Sheldon, Hargrove, Appelwick, Forner, Paris, Vance, Scott, Wineberry, Jacobsen, Chandler, Wood, P. Johnson, Roland, R. Johnson, Haugen, Cantwell, Jones, May, Zellinsky, Brough, Basich, Lisk, Mitchell, Wynne, Miller, Moyer, Brekke and Sprenkle).

Read first time February 9, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to superior courts; amending RCW 2.08.061,
2 2.08.062, 2.08.064, 2.08.065, and 2.32.180; creating a new section;
3 providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.08.061 and 1989 c 328 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 There shall be in the county of King no more than (~~forty-six~~)
8 fifty-eight judges of the superior court; in the county of Spokane ten
9 judges of the superior court; and in the county of Pierce nineteen
10 judges of the superior court. The King county legislative authority
11 may phase in the additional twelve judges, as authorized by the 1991
12 amendments to this section, over a period of time not to extend beyond
13 July 1, 1995.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.08.062 and 1990 c 186 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 There shall be in the counties of Chelan and Douglas jointly, three
4 judges of the superior court; in the county of Clark six judges of the
5 superior court; in the county of Grays Harbor (~~two~~) three judges of
6 the superior court; in the county of Kitsap seven judges of the
7 superior court; in the county of Kittitas one judge of the superior
8 court; in the county of Lewis two judges of the superior court.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 2.08.064 and 1989 c 328 s 3 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 There shall be in the counties of Benton and Franklin jointly, five
12 judges of the superior court; in the county of Clallam, two judges of
13 the superior court; in the county of Jefferson, one judge of the
14 superior court; in the county of Snohomish, (~~eleven~~) thirteen judges
15 of the superior court; in the counties of Asotin, Columbia and Garfield
16 jointly, one judge of the superior court; in the county of Cowlitz,
17 three judges of the superior court; in the counties of Klickitat and
18 Skamania jointly, one judge of the superior court. One of the new
19 positions, of this 1991 act, shall become effective January 1, 1992,
20 and the other new position shall become effective on January 1, 1993.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 2.08.065 and 1990 c 186 s 2 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 There shall be in the county of Grant, two judges of the superior
24 court; in the county of Okanogan, one judge of the superior court; in
25 the county of Mason, (~~one~~) two judges of the superior court; in the
26 county of Thurston, six judges of the superior court; in the counties
27 of Pacific and Wahkiakum jointly, one judge of the superior court; in
28 the counties of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens jointly, two judges of

1 the superior court; and in the counties of San Juan and Island jointly,
2 two judges of the superior court.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 2.32.180 and 1990 c 186 s 3 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 It shall be and is the duty of each and every superior court judge
6 in counties or judicial districts in the state of Washington having a
7 population of over thirty-five thousand inhabitants to appoint, or said
8 judge may, in any county or judicial district having a population of
9 over twenty-five thousand and less than thirty-five thousand, appoint
10 a stenographic reporter to be attached to the court holden by him who
11 shall have had at least three years' experience as a skilled, practical
12 reporter, or who upon examination shall be able to report and
13 transcribe accurately one hundred and seventy-five words per minute of
14 the judge's charge or two hundred words per minute of testimony each
15 for five consecutive minutes; said test of proficiency, in event of
16 inability to meet qualifications as to length of time of experience, to
17 be given by an examining committee composed of one judge of the
18 superior court and two official reporters of the superior court of the
19 state of Washington, appointed by the president judge of the superior
20 court judges association of the state of Washington: PROVIDED, That a
21 stenographic reporter shall not be required to be appointed for the
22 seven additional judges of the superior court authorized for
23 appointment by section 1, chapter 323, Laws of 1987, the additional
24 superior court judge authorized by section 1, chapter 66, Laws of 1988,
25 the additional superior court judges authorized by sections 2 and 3,
26 chapter 328, Laws of 1989, (~~or~~) the additional superior court judges
27 authorized by sections 1 and 2, chapter 186, Laws of 1990, or the
28 additional superior court judges authorized by sections 1 through 4 of
29 this 1991 act. The initial judicial appointee shall serve for a period

1 of six years; the two initial reporter appointees shall serve for a
2 period of four years and two years, respectively, from September 1,
3 1957; thereafter on expiration of the first terms of service, each
4 newly appointed member of said examining committee to serve for a
5 period of six years. In the event of death or inability of a member to
6 serve, the president judge shall appoint a reporter or judge, as the
7 case may be, to serve for the balance of the unexpired term of the
8 member whose inability to serve caused such vacancy. The examining
9 committee shall grant certificates to qualified applicants.
10 Administrative and procedural rules and regulations shall be
11 promulgated by said examining committee, subject to approval by the
12 said president judge.

13 The stenographic reporter upon appointment shall thereupon become
14 an officer of the court and shall be designated and known as the
15 official reporter for the court or judicial district for which he is
16 appointed: PROVIDED, That in no event shall there be appointed more
17 official reporters in any one county or judicial district than there
18 are superior court judges in such county or judicial district; the
19 appointments in each class AA county shall be made by the majority vote
20 of the judges in said county acting en banc; the appointments in class
21 A counties and counties of the first class may be made by each
22 individual judge therein or by the judges in said county acting en
23 banc. Each official reporter so appointed shall hold office during the
24 term of office of the judge or judges appointing him, but may be
25 removed for incompetency, misconduct or neglect of duty, and before
26 entering upon the discharge of his duties shall take an oath to perform
27 faithfully the duties of his office, and file a bond in the sum of two
28 thousand dollars for the faithful discharge of his duties. Such
29 reporter in each court is hereby declared to be a necessary part of the
30 judicial system of the state of Washington.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Section 2 of this act shall take effect
2 January 1, 1992. Section 3 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1992.
3 Sections 1 and 4 of this act are necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
5 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take
6 effect July 1, 1991.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The additional judicial positions
8 created by sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this act shall be effective only
9 if each county through its duly constituted legislative authority
10 documents its approval of any additional positions and its agreement
11 that it will pay out of county funds, without reimbursement from the
12 state, the expenses of such additional judicial positions as provided
13 by statute and only if the superior court judges in each of the
14 counties document their adoption of mandatory arbitration for money
15 judgments to the fullest extent authorized under RCW 7.06.020(1).