# Washington State House of Representatives

BILL ANALYSIS

## Office of Program Research

## **Local Government Committee**

## **HB 3372**

**Brief Description:** Addressing county elected officials keeping offices at the county seat.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Haler, Simpson, Warnick and Hankins.

#### **Brief Summary of Bill**

Requires superior court clerks, county sheriffs, county treasurers, and county road
engineers to each keep an office at the county seat of the county for which he or she
serves.

**Hearing Date:** 2/22/08

**Staff:** Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

### **Background:**

The general legal framework by which Washington's 39 counties must operate is found within the state constitution. The constitution includes provisions for county organization, governance, and elected officials, including the establishment of county clerks, sheriffs, and treasurers.

With some exceptions, the specific powers and duties of elected county officials are prescribed in statute. For example, state law obligates superior court clerks, county sheriffs, county treasurers, and county road engineers to keep their respective offices at the county seat of the county for which he or she serves.

#### **Summary of Bill:**

New office location provisions are specified for selected county officials. Superior court clerks, county sheriffs, county treasurers, and county road engineers must each keep an office at the county seat of the county for which he or she serves.

**Appropriation:** None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.