
SENATE BILL 5755

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 02/11/97. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Insurance & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to service of process in landlord-tenant disputes;
2 and amending RCW 59.18.055.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 59.18.055 and 1989 c 342 s 14 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) When the plaintiff, after the exercise of due diligence, is
7 unable to personally serve the summons on the defendant, the court may
8 authorize the alternative means of service described herein. Upon
9 filing of an affidavit from the person or persons attempting service
10 describing those attempts, and the filing of an affidavit from the
11 plaintiff, plaintiff's agent, or plaintiff's attorney stating the
12 belief that the defendant cannot be found, the court may enter an order
13 authorizing service of the summons as follows:

14 ~~((+1))~~ (a) The summons and complaint shall be posted in a
15 conspicuous place on the premises unlawfully held, not less than nine
16 days from the return date stated in the summons; and

17 ~~((+2))~~ (b) Copies of the summons and ~~((compliant-[complaint]))~~
18 complaint shall be deposited in the mail, postage prepaid, by both
19 regular mail and certified mail directed to the defendant's or

1 defendants' last known address not less than nine days from the return
2 date stated in the summons.

3 When service on the defendant or defendants is accomplished by this
4 alternative procedure, the court's jurisdiction is limited to restoring
5 possession of the premises to the plaintiff and no money judgment may
6 be entered against the defendant or defendants until such time as
7 jurisdiction over the defendant or defendants is obtained.

8 (2) This section shall apply to this chapter and chapter 59.20 RCW.

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