
SENATE BILL 6684

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2002 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, McCaslin, Finkbeiner and Thibaudeau

Read first time 01/26/2002. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing the number of district court judges;
2 and amending RCW 3.34.010 and 3.34.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 3.34.010 and 1998 c 64 s 1 are each amended to read as
5 follows:

6 (1) The number of district judges to be elected in each county
7 shall be: Adams, two; Asotin, one; Benton, three; Chelan, two;
8 Clallam, two; Clark, five; Columbia, one; Cowlitz, two; Douglas, one;
9 Ferry, one; Franklin, one; Garfield, one; Grant, two; Grays Harbor,
10 two; Island, one; Jefferson, one; King, not more than twenty-six;
11 Kitsap, three; Kittitas, two; Klickitat, two; Lewis, two; Lincoln, one;
12 Mason, one; Okanogan, two; Pacific, two; Pend Oreille, one; Pierce,
13 eleven; San Juan, one; Skagit, two; Skamania, one; Snohomish, eight;
14 Spokane, nine; Stevens, one; Thurston, two; Wahkiakum, one; Walla
15 Walla, two; Whatcom, two; Whitman, one; Yakima, four. This number may
16 be increased only as provided in RCW 3.34.020.

17 (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section,
18 the legislative authority in King county shall determine the actual
19 number of district court judges to be elected in the county.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 3.34.020 and 1997 c 41 s 3 are each amended to read as
2 follows:

3 (1) Any (~~change~~) increase in the maximum number of full and part-
4 time district judges after January 1, 1992, shall be determined by the
5 legislature after receiving a recommendation from the supreme court.
6 The supreme court shall make its recommendations to the legislature
7 based on a weighted caseload analysis that takes into account the
8 following:

9 (a) The extent of time that existing judges have available to hear
10 cases in that court;

11 (b) A measurement of the judicial time needed to process various
12 types of cases;

13 (c) A determination of the time required to process each type of
14 case to the individual court workload;

15 (d) A determination of the amount of a judge's annual work time
16 that can be devoted exclusively to processing cases; and

17 (e) An assessment of judicial resource needs, including annual case
18 filings, and case weights and the judge year value determined under the
19 weighted caseload method.

20 (2) The administrator for the courts, under the supervision of the
21 supreme court, may consult with the board of judicial administration
22 and the district and municipal court judge's association in developing
23 the procedures and methods of applying the weighted caseload analysis.

24 (3) For each recommended (~~change from~~) increase in the number of
25 full and part-time district judges in any county as of January 1, 1992,
26 the administrator for the courts, under the supervision of the supreme
27 court, shall complete a judicial impact note detailing any local or
28 state cost associated with such recommended change.

29 (4) If the legislature approves an increase in the base number of
30 district judges in any county as of January 1, 1992, such increase in
31 the base number of district judges and all related costs may be paid
32 for by the county from moneys provided under RCW 82.14.310, and any
33 such costs shall be deemed to be expended for criminal justice purposes
34 (~~as provided in RCW 82.14.315~~), and such expenses shall not
35 constitute a supplanting of existing funding.

36 (5)(a) A county legislative authority that desires to (~~change~~)
37 increase the maximum number of full or part-time district judges from
38 the base number on January 1, 1992, must first request the assistance
39 of the supreme court. The administrator for the courts, under the

1 supervision of the supreme court, shall conduct a weighted caseload
2 analysis and make a recommendation of its findings to the legislature
3 for consideration as provided in this section.

4 (b) The legislative authority of any county may change a part-time
5 district judge position to a full-time position.

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