
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5882

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored by Senators Pelz, McCaslin, Johnson, Madsen, Moore and Owen).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to drug assets property forfeiture by criminals;
2 adding new sections to chapter 43.10 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that drug asset
6 forfeiture and criminal profiteering laws allow law enforcement
7 officials and the courts to strip drug dealers and other successful
8 criminals of the wealth they have acquired from their crimes and the
9 assets they have used to facilitate those crimes. These laws are
10 rarely used by prosecutors, however, because of the difficulty in
11 identifying profiteering and the assets that criminals may have as a
12 result of their crimes. It is the intent of the legislature to provide
13 local law enforcement officials and state agencies with sufficient
14 resources to seize the assets of criminals and the proceeds of their
15 profiteering.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.10 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The attorney general shall establish a narcotics and criminal
4 profiteering unit. The unit shall: (1) Assist local law enforcement
5 officials in the development of cases arising under the criminal
6 profiteering laws with special emphasis on narcotics related cases; (2)
7 assist local prosecutors in the litigation of criminal profiteering
8 cases, or, at the request of a prosecutor's office, litigate such cases
9 on its behalf; (3) conduct seminars and training sessions on
10 prosecution of criminal profiteering cases and drug asset forfeiture
11 cases; and (4) litigate drug asset forfeiture and criminal profiteering
12 cases referred by state agencies.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of four hundred thousand
14 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
15 the biennium ending June 30, 1992, from the general fund to the
16 attorney general for the narcotics and criminal profiteering unit
17 within the office of the attorney general as authorized by this act.