
SENATE BILL 6458

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senators Nelson, Owen, McMullen and von Reichbauer; by request of Administrator for the Courts

Read first time 02/03/92. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to superior courts; amending RCW 2.08.061,
2 2.08.063, 2.08.064, 2.08.065, and 2.32.180; creating a new section; and
3 providing an effective date.

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 1992
12 amendments to this section, over a period of time not to extend beyond
13 July 1, 1996.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.08.063 and 1988 c 66 s 1 are each amended to read as
2 follows:

3 There shall be in the county of Lincoln one judge of the superior
4 court; in the county of Skagit, (~~two~~) three judges of the superior
5 court; in the county of Walla Walla, two judges of the superior court;
6 in the county of Whitman, one judge of the superior court; in the
7 county of Yakima six judges of the superior court; in the county of
8 Adams, one judge of the superior court; in the county of Whatcom, three
9 judges of the superior court.

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

12 There shall be in the counties of Benton and Franklin jointly, five
13 judges of the superior court; in the county of Clallam, two judges of
14 the superior court; in the county of Jefferson, one judge of the
15 superior court; in the county of Snohomish, (~~eleven~~) thirteen judges
16 of the superior court; in the counties of Asotin, Columbia and Garfield
17 jointly, one judge of the superior court; in the county of Cowlitz,
18 three judges of the superior court; in the counties of Klickitat and
19 Skamania jointly, one judge of the superior court.

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

22 There shall be in the county of Grant, two judges of the superior
23 court; in the county of Okanogan, one judge of the superior court; in
24 the county of Mason, (~~one~~) two judges of the superior court; in the
25 county of Thurston, six judges of the superior court; in the counties
26 of Pacific and Wahkiakum jointly, one judge of the superior court; in
27 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 1991 c 363 s 2 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 judge's court who shall
11 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 1992 act. Appointment of a stenographic reporter is not required

1 for any additional superior court judge authorized after July 1, 1992.
2 The initial judicial appointee shall serve for a period of six years;
3 the two initial reporter appointees shall serve for a period of four
4 years and two years, respectively, from September 1, 1957; thereafter
5 on expiration of the first terms of service, each newly appointed
6 member of said examining committee to serve for a period of six years.
7 In the event of death or inability of a member to serve, the president
8 judge shall appoint a reporter or judge, as the case may be, to serve
9 for the balance of the unexpired term of the member whose inability to
10 serve caused such vacancy. The examining committee shall grant
11 certificates to qualified applicants. Administrative and procedural
12 rules and regulations shall be promulgated by said examining committee,
13 subject to approval by the said president judge.

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

1 his or her duties. Such reporter in each court is hereby declared to
2 be a necessary part of the judicial system of the state of Washington.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1992.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The additional judicial positions
5 created by sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this act shall be effective only
6 if each county through its duly constituted legislative authority
7 documents its approval of any additional positions and its agreement
8 that it will pay out of county funds, without reimbursement from the
9 state, the expenses of such additional judicial positions as provided
10 by statute.