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## Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee

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### HB 1072

**Brief Description:** Removing only one of the restrictions on the use of civil legal aid funds.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Lekanoff and Valdez.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removes the prohibition on the use of civil legal aid funds to represent individuals who are in the United States without legal authority.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/12/21

**Staff:** Yelena Baker (786-7301).

**Background:**

The Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) is an independent judicial branch agency established by the Legislature in 2005 to administer and oversee state funds appropriated by the Legislature for the provision of civil legal aid services to eligible low-income people in Washington.

The OCLA is prohibited from providing direct representation of clients. Instead, moneys appropriated by the Legislature for civil representation are to be used solely for the purposes of contracting with qualified legal aid programs for legal representation of indigent persons in matters relating to:

- domestic relations and family law matters;
- governmental assistance and services;
- health care;
- housing and utilities;
- mortgage foreclosures;
- consumer, financial services, credit, and bankruptcy;
- employment;

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- rights of residents of long-term care facilities;
- wills, estates, and living wills;
- elder abuse;
- guardianship;
- disability rights;
- education, including special education;
- administrative agency decisions; and
- discrimination prohibited by local, state, or federal law.

Moneys distributed to qualified legal aid programs by the OCLA may not be used directly or indirectly for:

- lobbying or grass roots lobbying;
- class action lawsuits;
- participating in or identifying the program with prohibited political activities, such as any activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, candidate, or ballot measure, or voter registration or transportation activities;
- representation in fee-generating cases;
- organizing any association, union, or federation, or representing a labor union;
- representation of individuals who are in the United States without legal authority;
- picketing, demonstrations, strikes, or boycotts;
- engaging in inappropriate solicitation; or
- conducting training programs that: advocate particular public policies; encourage or facilitate political activities, labor or antilabor activities, boycotts, picketing, strikes or demonstrations; or attempt to influence legislation or rulemaking.

Moneys appropriated for civil legal representation may not be used for legal representation that is either expressly prohibited or beyond the scope of what is permitted.

**Summary of Bill:**

The prohibition on the use of funds by qualified legal aid programs to represent individuals who are in the United States without legal authority is removed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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