

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1114

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the membership of the sentencing guidelines commission.

Sponsors: Representatives Mosbrucker, Simmons, Reed and Goodman.

House Committee on Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry
Senate Committee on Law & Justice

Background:

The Sentencing Guidelines Commission (SGC) advises the Governor and the Legislature on issues relating to adult and juvenile sentencing. The SGC consists of 20 voting members. Aside from ex officio members, voting members are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor and are confirmed by the Senate. In making appointments, the Governor must endeavor to assure that the SGC membership includes adequate representation and expertise relating to both the adult criminal justice system and juvenile justice system.

The SGC's voting membership includes:

- the head of the state agency having general responsibility for adult correctional programs, as an ex officio member;
- the Director of Financial Management, or a designee, as an ex officio member;
- the Chair of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board, as an ex officio member;
- the head of the state agency, or designee, having responsibility for juvenile corrections programs, as an ex officio member;
- two prosecuting attorneys;
- two attorneys with particular expertise in defense work;
- four superior court judges;
- a chief law enforcement officer of a city or county;
- four members of the public who are not prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, or law enforcement officers, one of whom is a victim of crime or a crime victims' advocate;
- an elected official of a county government, other than a prosecuting attorney or sheriff;

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- an elected official of a city government; and
- an administrator of juvenile court services.

The SGC also includes four legislators serving two-year terms as nonvoting members, one from each of the two largest caucuses in each chamber.

Summary:

Five members are added to the Sentencing Guidelines Commission (SGC) as follows:

- the chair of the State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission or designee, as an ex officio member;
- a person representing the interests of tribes;
- a behavioral health professional with experience working in the criminal justice system;
- a person with knowledge of and expertise in academic research in the field of criminology or sociology; and
- an additional public member

When appointing the academic research expert, the Governor must seek recommendations of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy and relevant departments of Washington State University and the University of Washington.

The membership requirements for the public members of the SGC are changed. The Governor must appoint a member of the public who has been formerly incarcerated in the state correctional system as one of the four voting members who are members of the public. The member who must be a crime victims advocate may also be a victim of crime.

The Governor must stagger the initial terms of the member representing the interests of tribes, the member who serves as a behavioral health professional with experience working in the criminal justice system, and the member with knowledge of and expertise in academic research in the field of criminology or sociology by appointing one of them for a term of one year, one of them for a term of two years, and one of them for a term of three years.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	96	0	
Senate	48	0	(Senate amended)
House	97	0	(House concurred)

Effective: July 23, 2023