

SSB 5865 - S AMD 533

By Senator Warnick

ADOPTED 01/28/2026

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3

4

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 6.27.340 and 2012 c 159 s 5 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Service of a writ for a continuing lien shall comply fully  
8 with RCW 6.27.110.

9 (2) If the writ is directed to an employer for the purpose of  
10 garnishing the defendant's wages, the first answer shall accurately  
11 state, as of the date the writ of garnishment was issued as  
12 indicated by the date appearing on the last page of the writ,  
13 whether the defendant was employed by the garnishee defendant (and  
14 if not the date employment terminated), whether the defendant's  
15 earnings were subject to a preexisting writ of garnishment for  
16 continuing liens on earnings (and if so the date such writ will  
17 terminate and the current writ will be enforced), whether the  
18 defendant maintained a financial account with garnishee, and whether  
19 the garnishee defendant had possession of or control over any funds,  
20 personal property, or effects of the defendant (and if so the  
21 garnishee defendant shall list all of defendant's personal property  
22 or effects in its possession or control). The first answer shall  
23 further accurately state, as of the time of service of the writ of  
24 garnishment on the garnishee defendant, the amount due and owing  
25 from the garnishee defendant to the defendant, and the defendant's  
26 total earnings, allowable deductions, disposable earnings, exempt  
27 earnings, deductions for superior liens such as child support, and

1 net earnings withheld under the writ. The first answer (~~may be~~  
2 ~~substantially in the following~~) may be substantially in the same  
3 form as the form developed by the Washington pattern forms committee  
4 ((form)) ((÷

5  
6 IN THE ..... COURT  
7 OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR  
8 THE COUNTY OF .....

9 .....; NO. ....  
10 Plaintiff,  
11 vs. FIRST ANSWER  
12 .....; TO WRIT OF  
13 Defendant, GARNISHMENT  
14 ..... FOR CONTINUING LIEN  
15 Garnishee Defendant ON EARNINGS

17  
18 ~~SECTION I. If you are withholding the defendant's nonexempt~~  
19 ~~earnings under a previously served writ for a continuing~~  
20 ~~lien, answer only sections I and III of this form and mail~~  
21 ~~or deliver the forms as directed in the writ. Withhold from~~  
22 ~~the defendant's future nonexempt earnings as directed in the~~  
23 ~~writ, and a second set of answer forms will be forwarded to~~  
24 ~~you later.~~

25 ~~If you are NOT withholding the defendant's earnings under a~~  
26 ~~previously served writ for a continuing lien, answer this~~  
27 ~~ENTIRE form and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the~~  
28 ~~writ. A second set of answer forms will be forwarded to you~~  
29 ~~later for subsequently withheld earnings.~~

30 ~~ANSWER: I am presently holding the defendant's nonexempt~~  
31 ~~earnings under a previous writ served on . . . . . that~~  
32 ~~will terminate not later than . . . . ., 20 . . . .~~  
33  
34

1 ~~On the date the writ of garnishment was issued as indicated~~  
2 ~~by the date appearing on the last page of the writ:~~

3 ~~(A) The defendant: (check one) [ ] was, [ ] was not employed~~  
4 ~~by garnishee. If not employed and you have no possession or~~  
5 ~~control of any funds of defendant, indicate the last day of~~  
6 ~~employment: . . . . .; and complete section III of this~~  
7 ~~answer and mail or deliver the forms as directed in the writ;~~

8 ~~(B) The defendant: (check one) [ ] did, [ ] did not maintain~~  
9 ~~a financial account with garnishee; and~~

10 ~~(C) The garnishee: (check one) [ ] did, [ ] did not have~~  
11 ~~possession of or control over any funds, personal property,~~  
12 ~~or effects of the defendant. (List all of defendant's~~  
13 ~~personal property or effects in your possession or control~~  
14 ~~on the last page of this answer form or attach a schedule if~~  
15 ~~necessary.)~~

16  
17 ~~SECTION II. At the time of service of the writ of~~  
18 ~~garnishment on the garnishee there was due and owing from~~  
19 ~~the garnishee to the above named defendant \$ . . . . .~~

20 ~~This writ attaches a maximum of . . . . . percent of the~~  
21 ~~defendant's disposable earnings (that is, compensation~~  
22 ~~payable for personal services, whether called wages, salary,~~  
23 ~~commission, bonus, or otherwise, and including periodic~~  
24 ~~payments pursuant to a nongovernmental pension or retirement~~  
25 ~~program).~~

26 Calculate the attachable amount as follows:

27  
28 ~~Gross Earnings.....\$ . . . . .(1)~~

29 ~~Less deductions required by law (social security,~~  
30 ~~federal withholding tax, etc. Do not include~~  
31 ~~deductions for child support orders or government~~  
32 ~~liens here. Deduct child support orders and liens~~  
33 ~~on line 7): .....\$ . . . . .(2)~~

34 ~~Disposable Earnings (subtract line 2 from~~

1 line 1):.....\$. . . . .(3)  
2 Enter . . . percent of line 3:.....\$. . . . .(4)  
3 Enter one of the following exempt  
4 amounts\*:.....\$. . . . .(5)

5 If paid: Weekly \$..... Semi- \$.....  
6 monthly  
7  
8 Bi-weekly \$..... Monthly \$.....

9 \*These are minimum exempt amounts that the  
10 defendant must be paid. If your answer  
11 covers more than one pay period, multiply  
12 the preceding amount by the number of pay  
13 periods and/or fraction thereof your answer  
14 covers. If you use a pay period not shown,  
15 prorate the monthly exempt amount.

16 Subtract the larger of lines 4 and 5 from  
17 line 3:.....\$. . . . .(6)

18 Enter amount (if any) withheld for ongoing  
19 government liens such as child support:..\$. . . . .(7)

20 Subtract line 7 from line 6. This amount  
21 must be held out for the plaintiff:.....\$. . . . .(8)

22 This is the formula that you will use for withholding each  
23 pay period over the required sixty day garnishment period.  
24 Deduct any allowable processing fee you may charge from the  
25 amount that is to be paid to the defendant.

26 If there is any uncertainty about your answer, give an  
27 explanation on the last page or on an attached page.

28 SECTION III. An attorney may answer for the garnishee.

29 Under penalty of perjury, I affirm that I have examined this  
30 answer, including accompanying schedules, and to the best of  
31 my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete.  
32  
33

34 .....



1 "effective date" of a writ is the date of service of the writ if  
2 there is no previously served writ; otherwise, it is the date of  
3 termination of a previously served writ or writs.

4 (2) At the time of the expected termination of the lien, the  
5 plaintiff shall mail (~~to~~) the garnishee (~~(one copy of the answer~~  
6 ~~form prescribed in RCW 6.27.340))~~ a copy of the second answer form  
7 developed by the Washington pattern forms committee or a  
8 substantially equivalent form. (~~The plaintiff shall replace the~~  
9 ~~text of section I of the answer form with a statement in~~  
10 ~~substantially the following form: "ANSWER SECTION II OF THIS FORM~~  
11 ~~WITH RESPECT TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF EARNINGS WITHHELD UNDER THIS~~  
12 ~~GARNISHMENT, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT, IF ANY, STATED IN YOUR FIRST~~  
13 ~~ANSWER, AND WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THESE FORMS, MAIL~~  
14 ~~OR DELIVER THEM AS DIRECTED IN THE WRIT."~~)

15	Nonexempt amount due and owing stated in	\$...
16	first answer	
17	Nonexempt amount accrued since first answer	\$...
18	TOTAL AMOUNT WITHHELD	\$ -))

19 (3) Within (~~twenty~~) 20 days of receipt of the second answer  
20 form the garnishee shall file a second answer(~~(, either))~~ in the  
21 form as provided in subsection (2) of this section, stating the  
22 total amount held subject to the garnishment or otherwise containing  
23 the information required in subsection (2) of this section and a  
24 calculation indicating the total amount due and owing from the  
25 garnishee defendant to the defendant, the defendant's total earnings  
26 deductions, disposable earnings, exempt earnings, deductions for  
27 superior liens such as child support, and net earnings withheld  
28 under the writ. (~~(, or otherwise containing the information required~~  
29 ~~in subsection (2) of this section and a calculation indicating the~~  
30 ~~total amount due and owing from the garnishee defendant to the~~  
31 ~~defendant, the defendant's total earnings, allowable deductions,~~  
32 ~~disposable earnings, exempt earnings, deductions for superior liens~~  
33 ~~such as child support, and net earnings withheld under the writ)).~~)

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The Washington pattern forms committee  
2 must complete the development of the new forms referenced in  
3 sections 1 and 2 of this act by December 31, 2026.

4

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect  
6 May 1, 2027.

EFFECT:    Allows the first answer to be provided in a form that  
is substantially in the same form as the form developed by the  
pattern forms committee. Changes the effective date of Sections 1  
and 2 from January 1, 2027 to May 1, 2027 to account for  
implementation timelines.

--- END ---