
SENATE BILL 5913

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Torres, Dozier, and J. Wilson

Prefiled 12/17/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying public defense caseload standards
2 for local jurisdictions; and amending RCW 10.101.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 10.101.030 and 2005 c 157 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Each county or city under this chapter shall adopt standards for
7 the delivery of public defense services, whether those services are
8 provided by contract, assigned counsel, or a public defender office.
9 Standards shall include the following: Compensation of counsel,
10 duties and responsibilities of counsel, case load limits and types of
11 cases, responsibility for expert witness fees and other costs
12 associated with representation, administrative expenses, support
13 services, reports of attorney activity and vouchers, training,
14 supervision, monitoring and evaluation of attorneys, substitution of
15 attorneys or assignment of contracts, limitations on private practice
16 of contract attorneys, qualifications of attorneys, disposition of
17 client complaints, cause for termination of contract or removal of
18 attorney, and nondiscrimination. (~~The standards endorsed by the
19 Washington state bar association for the provision of public defense
20 services should serve as guidelines to local legislative authorities
21 in adopting standards~~) If practicable, standards adopted by the

1 local legislative authorities shall comply with Washington state
2 court rules for public defense services and may incorporate
3 provisions of standards endorsed by the Washington state bar
4 association that do not conflict with court rules.

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