

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY REPORT





# WASHINGTON COURTS

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*Established in 1957 by state lawmakers, the Administrative Office of the Courts serves the Judicial Branch in carrying out its constitutional mission to provide equal justice under the law.*

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

On January 8, 2024, the Legislature convened for a 60-day session. This session was conducted in person with the option for remote testimony for committee hearings. Bills introduced primarily focused on addressing the attorney shortage, support for the dependency process, the use of artificial intelligence (AI), and juvenile justice.

By the end of the 2024 session 1,232 bills were introduced, with 389 bills passing the Legislature. In contrast, 1,634 bills were introduced during the 2023 session, and 479 bills were passed by the Legislature. Next year is the start of a new biennium and bills that did not pass this session will not move forward.

## 2024 Supplemental Budget Summary

Another legislative session has adjourned *sine die*, and we're pleased to report it was another successful year for our branch's state budget requests. Together with advocates, lobbyists, judges, and court staff, we successfully advocated for over \$29 million in new funding. While that may not seem like a lot, it represents the fact that virtually every request we made was funded and that members themselves had enough trust in our branch to add even more items to our budget that were not in our original request, but on which we consulted with them during the budget development process.

### Board for Judicial Administration Funding Requests

The Board for Judicial Administration (BJA) made eight budget requests of the legislature. These requests were organized into three main categories as we have done for the past three years: Support Trial Courts, Improve Access to Justice, and Maintain Critical IT Infrastructure. Each of the requests was funded, and most of them *fully* funded.

#### *Notable Items:*

- Protection Order Training for Judges: \$440,000
- Continue Funding *Blake* Implementation: \$1.8M
- IT Project – Person Records Management: \$632,000

### Items Added by Members or Resulting from Judicial Impact Notes

Fourteen additional items were funded that were either the result of legislative members requesting them or because of the financial impact of bills that passed during the session.

#### *Notable Items:*

- Increased Judicial Education: \$850,000
- Increased Caseload for Office of Public Guardianship: \$2.1M
- Study Barriers to Appellate Access: \$145,000

### Notable Provisos

There were eight new or amended provisos to note for your information. While many of them provide additional funding, one proviso in particular adds much greater flexibility to our interpreter reimbursement funding and allows up to 100 percent of court interpreter costs to be reimbursed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

## **Budget Outlook**

Finally, it's important to put our recent successes in context. The past three years have seen historic levels of investments in our court system by the legislature. That's due in large part to our collective outreach efforts and building closer relationships with legislators, not only with personal outreach, but also through our role on the Interbranch Advisory Committee. However, it's also due to the unprecedented growth in state revenues and the strength of our economy. Unfortunately, the economy is starting to cool down, and we're seeing revenue growth that is more aligned with historical averages. Because of this, the Legislature will likely have much fewer funds at its disposal next session, and may face a deficit.

## **Review of Policy Bills with Potential Court or AOC Impact**

Each legislative session, numerous AOC staff and court staff members screen, analyze, and monitor hundreds of bills for their potential impact on the business and operations of courts, AOC programs and services, and the Judicial Information System. While many of the bills introduced each legislative session will not be enacted into law, every bill must be reviewed for potential impact. This document provides a high-level summary of bills that may have significant court impact or interest.

Legislators passed five of the six bills requested by AOC and supported by the Board for Judicial Administration, including: [HB 1992](#) (additional Whatcom County Superior Court judge), [ESSB 5828](#) (water rights commissioner for Whatcom County Superior Court), [HB 2034](#) (notice of court reorganization), [SHB 2056](#) (concerning information sharing and limited investigative authority of supreme court bailiffs), and [SB 5836](#) (additional Clark County Superior Court judge).

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As you read through the following bill summaries, please do not hesitate to contact the AOC with questions. You can find detailed information about a bill on the Legislature's website by visiting <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> and entering the four-digit bill number. You can find information about the governor's signature, veto, or partial veto of bills at <https://www.governor.wa.gov/office-governor/official-actions/bill-action>.

## **Responsibility for Providing Service by Publication of a Summons or Notice in Dependency and Termination of Parental Rights Cases**

[2SHB 1205](#)

Chapter 312, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 1/31/2026

In child dependency cases, when the court orders notice, as described in RCW 65.16.020, to be published in a legal newspaper, the Petitioner is responsible for the cost of publication unless the Petitioner is a minor child or found to be an indigent parent or legal guardian. If the Petitioner is a minor child, the publication will be paid or reimbursed by the Office of Civil Legal Aid. If the Petitioner is an indigent parent or legal guardian, the publication will be paid for or reimbursed by the Office of Public Defense.

## **Addressing Harassment**

[SHB 1241](#)

Chapter 292, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Criminal, New & Amended Crimes

Effective Date(s): 3/26/2024

Amends RCW 9A.46.020 to define and add "election official" to the crime of harassment as a class C felony. Amends RCW 40.24.030 to add election officials who have been harassed to those who may apply to the address confidentiality program.

## **Regarding Limits on the Sale and Possession of Retail Cannabis Products**

[SHB 1249](#)

Chapter 9, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal, Other/Informational

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Authorizes cannabis retailers to sell 200 milligrams of THC within a cannabis-infused product in liquid form, to a retail customer, if the product is packaged in individual units containing no more than 4 milligrams per unit. Allows persons age 21 and older to possess these products.

## **Concerning Fraud in Assisted Reproduction**

[ESHB 1300](#)

Chapter 220, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Expands Assault in the third degree to include when a licensed health care provider implants or causes another to implant the provider's own gametes or reproductive material into a patient during an assisted reproduction procedure. List of unprofessional conduct for licensed health care providers under the Uniform Disciplinary Act is expanded to include when a licensee implants their own

gametes or reproductive material into a patient.

### **Eliminating Child Marriage**

[HB 1455](#)

Chapter 10, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Redefines marriage to be a civil contract between two people who are at least 18 years old. Removes language that allows a superior court judge to waive provision that voids a 17-year-old from entering into a marriage upon a showing of necessity, and removes exception that allows written consent from at least one parent or legal guardian for their 17-year-old to be granted a marriage license.

### **Concerning Impaired Driving**

[ESHB 1493](#)

Chapter 306, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 1/1/2026

Authorizes a person who was charged with a gross misdemeanor Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or Physical Control of a Vehicle Under the Influence (PC) and granted a deferred prosecution to participate in a second deferred prosecution. Authorizes a second deferred prosecution on a person's subsequent DUI or PC charge if the person has no other prior convictions for prior offenses, or while under the court's jurisdiction for a first deferred prosecution, if the first deferred prosecution is revoked. Modifies requirements for participation in a deferred prosecution depending on the nature of the petitioner's underlying problem. Provides that a second deferred prosecution for a DUI or PC offense counts as one point on a defendant's offender score. Establishes that a person cannot participate in deferred prosecution for a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor charge unless the court makes specific findings.

Changes the period for reviewing prior convictions of impaired driving from a 10-year to a 15-year period for determining whether the current offense of impaired driving is a felony. Creates a new drug offender sentencing alternative for individuals convicted of felony impaired driving offenses.

### **Concerning the Statute of Limitations for Childhood Sexual Abuse**

[E2SHB 1618](#)

Chapter 253, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile, D/M

Categories: Civil, Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Eliminates the statute of limitations in civil actions for damages as a result of childhood sexual abuse committed on or after June 6, 2024.



## **Improving the Washington State Behavioral Health System for Better Coordination and Recognition with the Indian Behavioral Health System**

[2SHB 1877](#)

Chapter 209, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): Various effective dates

Mandates that tribes, Indian healthcare providers, and other tribal entities be included in every step under the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA). Mandates the creation of statewide forms for use by tribal Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs), and requires courts to accept these forms when filed by the DCR. Permits tribes to seek reimbursement from the Health Care Authority (HCA) for judicial costs associated with civil commitment proceedings under Ch. 71.05 RCW.

## **Reporting Lost or Stolen Firearms**

[SHB 1903](#)

Chapter 286, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Civil, Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

An owner or person lawfully in possession of a firearm who suffers the loss or theft of the firearm must report the loss or theft to the local law enforcement agency where the loss or theft occurred within 24 hours after the person first discovered the loss or theft. Any person who fails to report the occurrence of a lost or stolen firearm commits a civil infraction and is subject to a monetary penalty of up to \$1,000. A law enforcement agency that receives a report of a lost or stolen firearm must enter the firearm's distinguishing number and/or identification information of the firearm into the National Crime Information Center database.

## **Concerning Activities in Which the Office of Public Defense may Engage without Violating the Prohibition on Providing Direct Representation of Clients**

[SHB 1911](#)

Chapter 294, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): ALL

Categories: Other/Informational

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Permits the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to engage in additional activities without violating the prohibition on direct representation of clients, such as providing limited, short-term coverage for initial services when OPD contracted counsel is unavailable, facilitating and supervising the placement of clerks, externs, and interns, and providing pro bono legal services in a manner consistent with the rules of professional conduct and applicable OPD policies.

## **Adopting the Physician Assistant Compact**

[HB 1917](#)

Chapter 53, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Adopts physician assistant (PA) compact as new chapter in Title 18 RCW to safeguard patients, increase access to medical services, and enhance portability of PA licenses; establishes participation requirements; creates governing commission and specifies its powers and duties; requires judiciary to enforce and take all actions necessary to implement; gives commission standing and right to receive service of process in any proceeding involving compact; and voids as to commission and compact any order or judgment entered absent such service.

## **Adopting the Social Work Licensure Compact**

[SHB 1939](#)

Chapter 176, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Adopts social work licensure compact as new chapter in Title 18 RCW to increase access to social work services and facilitate interstate practice; establishes participation requirements; creates governing commission and specifies its powers and duties; requires judiciary to enforce and take all actions necessary to implement; gives commission standing and right to receive service of process in any proceeding involving compact; and voids as to commission and compact any order or judgment entered absent such service.

## **Concerning Nonconsensual Removal of or Tampering with a Sexually Protective Device**

[HB 1958](#)

Chapter 254, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 7/1/2024

Affords victims of nonconsensual removal of or tampering with sexually protective devices a civil cause of action against perpetrators, and permits victims to proceed using pseudonym; provides non-exhaustive list of remedies; identifies factors courts may consider in determining whether to impose punitive damages; precludes offsetting award against child support obligation; and mandates that prior consent, alone, is insufficient to establish current consent.

## **Prohibiting License Plate Covers**

[HB 1963](#)

Chapter 84, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M

Categories: Criminal, New & Amended Crimes

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024



Mandates that license plates must be uncovered and unobstructed when a driver uses license plate frames. Adds additional unlawful acts as they relate to displaying a license plate. Requires law enforcement to provide a written notice to violators with information about the new law and applicable penalties upon the effective date.

### **Enhancing Prorate and Fuel Tax Collections by Improving Taxpayer Compliance, Providing Additional Enforcement Mechanisms, and Protecting Confidential Taxpayer Information**

[EHB 1964](#)

Chapter 1, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil, Criminal

Effective Date(s): 7/1/2024

Amends chapters 46.87 [prorate taxes on proportionally-registered vehicles], 82.38 [fuel taxes] and 82.42 [aircraft fuel taxes] RCW to clarify certain tax obligations, impose penalties for noncompliance, and provide additional enforcement tools; expands list of unlawful fuel-related acts; requires reporting and subjects those failing to report to civil and criminal penalties; authorizes creation of prorate/fuel tax discovery team within Department of Licensing to detect and investigate violations with team permitted to apply for ex parte superior court orders authorizing and pre-approving subpoenas and with court files for such applications to be sealed and not opened for inspection absent court order.

### **Concerning the Criminal Justice Treatment Account**

[HB 1983](#)

Chapter 179, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal, Other/Informational

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Makes permanent a previously temporary provision that Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funds may be used for substance use disorder treatment and support services for 180 days following graduation from a drug court program. Removes expired language that allowed municipal drug courts to utilize CJTA funds for a period of time.

### **Establishing the Washington Recreational Vehicle Manufacturer and Dealer Law**

[SHB 1996](#)

Chapter 87, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date: 6/6/2024

Establishes Recreational Vehicle Manufacturer and Dealer Law as new chapter in Title 46 RCW; requires signed agreement with specified terms between manufacturers and dealers as precondition for certain RV sales; clarifies rights, powers, and duties of those involved; limits right to terminate, cancel, or decline agreement renewal; clarifies warrantor obligations and requirements for dealership ownership changes; addresses inspections and rejection of damaged goods; bars coercion of dealers; authorizes civil actions in superior court for violations [with mediation prerequisite unless injunctive

relief also sought]; and provides for license revocations and imposition of fines against violators with their imposition appealable administratively or via “other proceeding authorized under state law.”

### **Concerning Fabricated Intimate or Sexually Explicit Images and Depictions**

[SHB 1999](#)

Chapter 88, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Expands existing criminal offenses related to depictions of minors in sexually explicit conduct to include fabricated depictions of an identifiable minor. Offense of disclosing a fabricated intimate image is established. Fabricated intimate image of another person is when that person knows or should know that the person being depicted has not consented to a disclosure and it would cause harm for the depiction to be disclosed. Consent to disclose a fabricated intimate image with respect to a civil cause of action is valid only if it is within a written agreement.

### **Concerning the Definition of Veteran and Restoring Honor to Veterans**

[2SHB 2014](#)

Chapter 146, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Other/Informational

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024; except Sections 25–27 which take effect on 4/1/2025

Amends the definition of a veteran for a variety of state laws that provide benefits to persons who are veterans. For the provisions that provide benefits to veterans, a “qualifying discharge” includes persons with: discharges with an honorable characterization; discharges with a general under honorable conditions characterization; discharges with an other than honorable characterization if the person can provide documentation of a decision from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs stating the person is eligible for monetary benefits such as disability or nonservice-connected pension; and, discharges where the listed reason for the discharge is solely due to a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or statements or consensual conduct or acts relating to a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, that were prohibited under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

### **Concerning the Disposition of Privately-Owned Firearms in the Custody of State or Local Government Entities or Law Enforcement Agencies**

[ESHB 2021](#)

Chapter 287, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

A firearm in the possession of a state or local government entity or law enforcement agency that is obtained through a firearm buyback program conducted by the entity or agency must be destroyed unless the firearm is determined to be stolen and returned to the rightful owners; retained and stored for evidence or investigation purposes; or provided to a museum or historical society if the firearm is recognized as a curio, relic, or has particular historical significance.

## **Concerning Construction Crane Safety**

[2SHB 2022](#)

Chapter 311, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M

Categories: Criminal, New & Amended Crimes

Effective Date(s): 1/1/2025

Establishes a new misdemeanor for an employer that allows a person to engage in tower crane assembly, disassembly, or reconfiguration without supervision by a qualified director, or allows a tower crane to be assembled, disassembled, or reconfigured not in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Requires the Department of Labor and Industries to establish rules and requirements related to construction tower cranes.

## **Requiring Counties and Cities to Provide the Administrative Office of the Courts with Notice of Court Reorganizations**

[HB 2034](#)

Chapter 61, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M, AOC

Categories: Other/Informational

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Requires cities to provide at least six months' advance notice to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) of intent to create a new municipal court and removes the restriction that any new municipal court ordinance take effect on January 1. Requires cities to provide at least six months' advance notice to the AOC of their intent to terminate an existing municipal court. Requires any city or county wanting to terminate a current agreement for court services to provide written notice to the AOC no less than one year prior to the expiration of the agreement.

## **Modifying the Appeals Process for Environmental and Land Use Matters**

[ESHB 2039](#)

Chapter 347, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): Various effective and expiration dates

Expands Administrative Procedures Act provisions concerning direct review of final administrative decisions of by the Court of Appeals to include appeals from final decisions of certain environmental boards; retains language permitting such review when the superior court makes specified findings and certifies matter for transfer, but expands it to require transfer if administrative decision under review relates to clean energy project and superior court makes requisite findings; clarifies required findings for transfer; permits transfers without discretionary review motion, but allows transfer decisions to be contested by such motions; authorizes remand if specified criteria met; provides for administrative consolidation of certain appeals, and clarifies Board before which such consolidated appeals to be heard.

## **Concerning Physician Assistant Collaborative Practice**

[ESHB 2041](#)

Chapter 62, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): Various effective dates, but most provisions effective 1/1/2025

Authorizes licensed physicians assistants to enter into collaborative practice agreements with physicians and to practice medicine in accord with terms of such agreements; specifies agreement requirements and rights, powers (authority), and duties of those utilizing them; assistants working under such agreements deemed "qualified professionals" for specified purposes; allows employers to receive direct payment for assistants' services if billing on their behalf; and precludes insurers from imposing practice, education, or collaboration requirements on such assistants that are inconsistent with or more restrictive than state law.

## **Concerning Supervision of Domestic Violence in Criminal Sentencing**

[SHB 2048](#)

Chapter 63, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Requirements under the Sentencing Reform Act that domestic violence is pleaded and proven is eliminated in provisions relating to supervision of individuals convicted of certain domestic violence offenses. The Department of Corrections by December 1, 2024, shall conduct an audit and report findings on its supervisory obligations for specified domestic violence offenses.

## **Concerning Penalties Relating to Antitrust Actions**

[SHB 2072](#)

Chapter 256, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date: 6/6/2024

Adopts Antitrust Penalties Improvement Act providing civil penalties of up to three times the unlawful gains or loss avoided as a result of each violation of RCW 19.86.030 or .040 including, but not limited to, price fixing.

## **Deterring the Theft of Catalytic Converters**

[ESHB 2153](#)

Chapter 301, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 4/1/2025

Creates a new felony and gross misdemeanor crime for trafficking in, possessing, selling, or offering to sell catalytic converters, or intentionally altering or obliterating the vehicle identification number of a detached catalytic converter.

## **Providing Solar Consumer Protections**

[SHB 2156](#)

Chapter 349, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Adds chapter to Title 19 RCW requiring certain solar energy system sellers and installers be licensed, use written agreements with specified terms, and provide customers specified notices, documentation, and information; prohibits deceptive solicitation methods; provides rescission period and bars provider enforcement actions during such period; and deems noncompliance a Consumer Protection Act violation with chapter violators liable for actual damages.

## **Providing Tools Designed to Reduce the Impacts of Unlawful Solid Waste Dumping**

[ESHB 2207](#)

Chapter 231, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M

Categories: Court Funding/Fees/LFOs, Criminal, Infractions, New & Amended Crimes

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Establishes a new Department of Natural Resources infraction, misdemeanor, and gross misdemeanor for littering in various amounts by cubic yard. Requires a new litter clean-up restitution payment equal to four times the actual cost of cleanup for natural resource infractions and misdemeanors, and two times the actual cost of cleanup for gross misdemeanors. Requires the court to distribute a portion of the restitution payment that equals the actual cost of cleanup to the landowner where the littering incident occurred.

## **Concerning Authority Over Individuals Found Guilty of or Accused of Criminal Offenses that Occurred when the Individual was Under the Age of 18**

[SHB 2217](#)

Chapter 117, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Expands jurisdiction for juvenile courts. Specifically, the juvenile courts may: commit juvenile offenders to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) for placement in a juvenile rehabilitation facility until their 23rd birthday under certain circumstances, place an individual under the authority of DCYF if they are under the age of 21 when the information was filed for committing the offense at the age of 18; maintain jurisdiction beyond a finding of guilt to enforce the juvenile court's orders; automatically extend parole for offenders adjudicated of specific crimes at certain ages; and require discretionary decline hearings to be set depending on the respondent's age and alleged offense.

## **Concerning Vacation Leave Accrual for State Employees**

[HB 2246](#)

Chapter 151, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Appellate\*, AOC

Categories: Salaries/Benefits/Personnel/HR

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Raises the maximum number of hours of vacation leave that an employee can accumulate at their anniversary date (unbroken Washington [WA] state government service date plus prior qualifying WA state government service) from two hundred forty (240) hours to two hundred eighty (280) hours. Excess leave beyond two hundred eighty hours at the anniversary date is automatically lost and considered to have never existed.

This bill does not change the existing provisions that (1) employers can make provisions in policy to allow for extensions in cases of business necessity and (2) an employee may accumulate the vacation leave hours beyond two hundred eighty between the time of their anniversary date and their next anniversary date of state employment; at which time they must have used the additional accrued vacation leave hours.

\*applies to appellate court staff only.

## **Establishing Civil Penalties for the Unlawful Sale or Supply of Alcohol to Minors**

[HB 2260](#)

Chapter 71, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Authorizes Liquor and Cannabis Board to impose civil penalties on store clerks who sell, gift, or otherwise provide liquor to those under age 21 from Board-licensed businesses while performing acts of employment [in lieu of issuing them criminal citations]; and permits the Board to pursue court action to enjoin violations and collect penalties.

## **Modifying Conditions of Community Custody**

[ESHB 2303](#)

Chapter 118, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 3/15/2024

Allows an individual who is on community custody following release from confinement to motion the court to amend substantive conditions of community custody imposed by the court upon a showing by a preponderance of the evidence that there has been a substantial change in circumstances, and that the condition is no longer necessary for community safety. Motions to modify substantive conditions of community custody are limited to once every 12 months that the order is in effect starting from the date of the order.

The Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) may impose or modify a person's community



custody conditions. Modifications may not be contrary to those ordered by the court, and can be based upon the crime of conviction, risk of re-offense, and risk to the safety of the community. ISRB shall notify the offender in writing of any additional or modified conditions.

### **Concerning Automated Traffic Safety Cameras**

[ESHB 2384](#)

Chapter 307, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Authorizes jurisdictions to use automated traffic cameras (traffic cameras) to detect speed violations on city streets within city limits and work zones. Makes the pilot program permanent for counties with populations above 500,000 for various infractions able to be captured by traffic cameras. Authorizes public transit authority to use traffic cameras in rapid transit lanes or corridors and to mount cameras within transport vehicles to detect stopping, standing, and parking infractions within the bus zone in cities with a population of more than 1.5 million residents. Authorizes civilian employees who work for either a law enforcement agency or local public works or transportation department to review and issue infractions detected by traffic cameras so long as the employee meets certain training and certification requirements. Requires that traffic camera infractions be reduced by 50 percent for a person's first offense when they are recipients of state public assistance, and for subsequent violations issued within 21 days of the first violation. Restricts revenues generated by traffic cameras to certain traffic safety purposes and requires that 25 percent of these revenues be deposited to the Cooper Jones Active Transportation Safety Account, subject to exceptions.

### **Protecting Patients in Facilities Regulated by the Department of Health by Establishing Uniform Enforcement Tools**

[ESSB 5271](#)

Chapter 121, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Authorizes Department of Health to utilize specified enforcement tools in regulating certain licensed facility types for compliance with applicable health standards; specifies rights, powers and duties of those involved; authorizes imposition of penalties and other sanctions; permits administrative appeals; deems final cease and desist orders conclusive proof of noncompliance enforceable under contempt statute; authorizes Attorney General actions to enjoin violations; and permits superior court to impose penalties on injunction violators and to retain jurisdiction for actions to collect such penalties.

## **Restricting the Possession of Weapons, Excluding Carrying a Pistol by a Person Licensed to Carry a Concealed Pistol, on the Premises of Libraries, Zoos, Aquariums, and Transit Facilities**

[2SSB 5444](#)

Chapter 285, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Adds locations to a list of designated places in which it is a gross misdemeanor for any person to enter while knowingly possessing a weapon. Public libraries, zoos, aquariums, transit stations or facilities are added to the list. The list of designated places does not apply to individuals with a valid concealed carry license. The activities of the United States Military, Washington National Guard, Washington Department of Veteran's affairs associated with color or honor guards while staging an activity are also not subject to the designated places prohibitions.

## **Concerning the Mental Health Sentencing Alternative**

[SSB 5588](#)

Chapter 373, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Courts and correctional facilities may delay a defendant's release from confinement in order for the defendant to adhere to their treatment plan if they are participating in the mental health sentencing alternative. Specifically, release may be delayed to: allow the defendant to transfer to inpatient treatment or a supportive housing provider; ensure appropriate transportation is established and available; or allow the defendant to access available services during business hours on a weekday.

## **Concerning Probate**

[ESSB 5589](#)

Chapter 20, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil, Probate/Guardianship

Effective Date(s): 8/1/2024

Amends Chapter 11.54 RCW to clarify property exempt from claims of decedent's creditors, establish procedure for allocating exempt property among claimants, and clarify process by which certain survivors may petition for support awards; expands list of eligible petitioners and specifies required petition contents; identifies factors for courts to consider in ruling on petitions and clarifies when court may and may not deviate from basic award; deems certain property non-exempt from duty to pay specified expenses; modifies payment priority for enforceable debts; and repeals RCW 11.54.070-.080.

## **Providing Compensation for Tow Truck Operators for Keeping the Public Roadways Clear**

[SSB 5652](#)

Chapter 320, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M

Categories: Civil, Court Funding/Fees/LFOs

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Creates a new civil cause of action for operating a vehicle on a public highway in an illegal or negligent manner resulting in damages to the highway, and makes the person liable for vehicle recovery, impound, and storage charges for the registered tow truck operator dispatched by law enforcement or another agency.

## **Protecting the Rights of Workers to Refrain from Attending Meetings or Listening to their Employer's Speech on Political or Religious Matters**

[ESSB 5778](#)

Chapter 357, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Establishes "Employee Free Choice Act" as new section in chapter 49.44 RCW barring covered employers from disciplining or otherwise retaliating against employees who opt out of employers' religious or political meetings and speeches; requires posting of opt-out rights; gives employees superior court cause of action for employer violations; and excepts certain communications from Act.

## **Encouraging the Participation in Public Defense and Prosecution Professions**

[2SSB 5780](#)

Chapter 293, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile, D/M

Categories: Other/Informational

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Directs the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to administer a law student rural public defense program to place students who are eligible to practice as legal interns or recent law school graduates with experienced public defense attorneys located in underserved and rural area of the state. Requires the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to administer or contract with Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys to administer a law student rural prosecution program. Requires both OPD and CJTC to expand their training offerings for those seeking advanced qualifications.

## **Making Updates to the Washington Business Corporation Act**

[SSB 5786](#)

Chapter 22, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Updates multiple sections of Washington Business Corporation Act [Title 23B RCW] relating to, *inter alia*, mergers and acquisitions, share exchanges, entity conversions, and corporate activities and

governance; and repeals multiple sections of Act.

### **Concerning Service Animal Training**

[ESSB 5788](#)

Chapter 161, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): ALL

Categories: Infractions, Other/Informational, Salaries/Benefits/Personnel/HR

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Expands legal protections for dogs and miniature horses trained as service animals to include service animal trainees ensuring a service animal trainer and trainee may access areas of places of public accommodation which are open to the public or to business invitees. Allows a place of public accommodation to charge a service animal trainer for damages the service animal trainee may cause if the place of public accommodation customarily charges persons for damages a person causes to the premises. Establishes instances under which a place of public accommodation may require a service animal trainer to remove a service animal trainee. Requires places of public accommodation to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by a person with a disability if the miniature horse has been trained as a service animal. Expands the civil infraction for misrepresenting an animal as a service animal to include service animal trainees (RCW 49.60.214) and allows a place of public accommodation to post signage that indicates misrepresentation of an animal as a service animal may result in a civil infraction of up to \$500.

### **Concerning Common Interest Communities**

[ESSB 5796](#)

Chapter 321, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): Various effective and expiration dates

Amends and adds sections to Washington's Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act, chapter 64.90 RCW concerning, *inter alia*: governance and operations; removal of discriminatory language in governing documents; rights, powers, and duties of unit owners and associations; elections; quorum requirements; assessments against individual unit owners for damage; restoration of owner rights suspended for nonpayment; reallocation amendments; electric vehicle charging stations; and flagpoles. Bars adoption and enforcement of regulations prohibiting or unreasonably restricting use of unit as adult family home with willful violators liable for damages and civil penalties; and repeals multiple statutes.

### **Concerning the Sale of Halal Foods**

[SB 5799](#)

Chapter 245, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M

Categories: Criminal, New & Amended Crimes

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Creates the halal food consumer protection act making it unlawful to knowingly sell or offer for sale any food product represented as halal when a seller knows the food product is not halal. Violation of

this act results in a gross misdemeanor. Amends the Food Safety and Security Act to not include halal food to the extent that it is necessary to produce halal food.

### **Concerning Special Deposits**

[ESSB 5801](#)

Chapter 23, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 7/1/2024 (but applicable to prior deposits by agreement).

Adopts "Uniform Special Deposits Act" as new chapter in Title 30A RCW; defines such deposits and purposes for which they are permitted; establishes deposit requirements and clarifies rights, duties, and liability of those involved; permits disputes to be resolved in Washington forum with court approval even if parties and dispute unrelated to this state; limits property interests in deposits; clarifies when creditor claims enforceable against bank; precludes enjoining certain payments unless constitute or facilitate fraud; addresses bank recoupment and setoffs, deposit termination, and laws and equitable principles supplementing chapter; and directs courts applying chapter to consider promotion of uniformity among adopting jurisdictions.

### **Developing a Schedule for Court Appointment of Attorneys for Children and Youth in Dependency and Termination Proceedings**

[SB 5805](#)

Chapter 25, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Extends by one year the implementation schedule for statewide appointment of legal counsel for all children ages eight through 17 in a dependency and termination action. The Office of Civil Legal Aid's Children's Legal Representation Program now has until January 1, 2028, to fully implement court appointment of attorneys for children in every county. A cap of 1,250 cases per fiscal year was also added.

### **Concerning Guardianship and Conservatorship**

[2SSB 5825](#)

Chapter 267, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, AOC

Categories: Civil, Forms, Probate/Guardianship, Salaries/Benefits/Personnel/HR

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Introduces minimal changes to the RCW 11.130 (UGA). Allows the court to dismiss a petition if no one is identified to serve as a guardian within 30 days. Also allows for a petition to be filed for a minor about to turn 18 within 45 days. Parents must be notified of a petition being filed if they are involved in the adult's life. Court visitors are required to request an appointment of an attorney if the respondent objects to the petition. Under the amended statute courts now have the authority to bring before it, in the manner prescribed by RCW 11.48.070, any person(s) suspected of having their possession or having concealed, embezzled, conveyed, or disposed of any of the property of the estate of the person subjected to conservatorship subject to the administration of this title.

Also includes amendments to RCW 2.72, Office of Public Guardianship (OPG). The amendments to RCW 2.72 are subject to appropriation. These amendments intend to expand on the services of OPG. The income limit for program eligibility is raised from 200% of the federal poverty level to 400%. OPG is required to provide training for decision makers specific to the high-needs population. OPG must submit an annual report to the legislature. These amendments to RCW 2.72 do not substantially change the operations of OPG as the office already has authority to perform this work. This section is intended to increase the reach of OPG in an effort to serve more individuals and provide additional training for decision makers.

### **Concerning Water Rights Adjudication Commissioners and Referees**

[ESSB 5828](#)

Chapter 268, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Amends and adds sections to chapter 90.03 RCW authorizing superior courts to appoint one or more water commissioners to aid the court in disposing of its business; specifies appointment procedure and powers of commissioners with commissioner rulings subject to revision by superior court; allows courts to refer water adjudication issues to referees without requiring parties' consent with referee appointments challengeable via RCW 90.03.620; requires the Administrative Office for The Courts (AOC) provide training to appointed commissioners on specified topics as soon as reasonably practicable, but permits AOC to contract with academic institutions to develop and deliver such training.

### **Concerning Court-Ordered Restitution in Environmental Criminal Cases**

[SB 5884](#)

Chapter 342, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Authorizes courts to order restitution in cases where there is harm to natural resources or the environment after a criminal conviction regarding water pollution; air pollution; and hazardous waste management.

### **Protecting the Safety and Security of Students and Maintaining Order within School Buses by Designating Trespassing on School Bus as a Criminal Offense**

[ESSB 5891](#)

Chapter 302, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Creates the Richard Lenhart act. A new gross misdemeanor of school bus trespass is created. A person commits the crime of school bus trespass if the person knowingly and maliciously enters or remains unlawfully in a school bus; does any other act that creates a substantial risk of harm to passengers or the driver, and causes a substantial interruption or impairment to services rendered by



the school bus.

### **Concerning Criminal Penalties for Bias-Motivated Defacement of Private or Public Property**

[SSB 5917](#)

Chapter 34, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Amends the elements of a hate crime. An individual is guilty of a hate crime if the person maliciously and intentionally: assaults another person; or causes physical damage to or destruction of the property of another; or threatens a specific person or group of persons and places that person, or members of the specific group of persons, in reasonable fear of harm to person or property because of the perpetrator's perception of another person's, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or mental, physical, or sensory disability.

### **Supporting Crime Victims and Witnesses by Promoting Victim-Centered, Trauma Informed Responses**

[E2SSB 5937](#)

Chapter 297, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 7/1/2024

Modifies procedures and rights related to crime victims. Crime victims may be reimbursed for reasonable roundtrip travel expenses for medical examinations and interviews. Crime victims who are injured shall be reimbursed for transportation from place of injury to place of treatment. The cost of a forensic exam shall be paid for by the state to gather evidence in cases of alleged sexual assault or domestic violence involving non-fatal strangulation that occurs within or outside the State of Washington.

Crime victims are to be informed when charges have been filed, and the right to attend court proceedings or required interviews in person or remotely. Victims of violent offenses, domestic violence, and sex offenses shall be informed by local law enforcement agencies or the prosecuting attorney when a defendant has been found not competent to stand trial, and referred for restoration services.

A pre-trial motion hearing shall be conducted concerning the relevancy of a victims past sexual behavior on the issue of consent in advance of a trial date, and before the jury is empaneled. Depictions of a victim's genitals created during a sexual assault medical forensic examination shall not be shown in open court, and must be filed as a confidential document within a court file.

## **Concerning Heat Pumps in Common Interest Communities**

[ESSB 5973](#)

Chapter 128, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Associations of apartment owners, unit owners' associations, and homeowners' associations may not enforce a rule or regulation that effectively prohibits or unreasonably restricts the installation or use of a heat pump. Associations may impose reasonable restrictions on apartment owners, unit owners, and homeowners such as requiring an application for approval to install the heat pump and an application processing fee. To install a heat pump, apartment owners, unit owners, and homeowners must comply and meet all relevant building requirements and safety standards. If an association willfully violates this law, the association is liable to the apartment owner, unit owner, or homeowner for actual damages and a civil penalty. When apartment owners, unit owners, and homeowners seek enforcement of this law, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to the prevailing apartment owners, unit owners, and homeowners.

## **Concerning the Disposition of Unenforceable Legal Financial Obligations other than Restitution Imposed by a Court or an Agent of the Court against a Juvenile prior to July 1, 2023**

[ESSB 5974](#)

Chapter 38, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Bill creates a tiered schedule to determine when juvenile financial legal obligations (LFOs) shall be rendered null and void and considered satisfied and paid in full. All juvenile LFOs shall be rendered null and void and considered satisfied and paid in full by July 1, 2027. Presiding judges may authorize an administrative process to waive outstanding debts for LFOs. Moreover, Clerks may seek a judicial order to waive LFOs similar to RCW 6.17.020.

## **Concerning Firearms Background Check Programs**

[ESSB 5985](#)

Chapter 289, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 3/26/2024

The Washington State Patrol Firearms Background Check Program is defined in the new legislation. After a six-month period in which a person has lost their right to possess a firearm due to a 72-hour detention under the involuntary treatment act the Washington State Patrol Firearms Background Check Program must remove the person from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Starting in July 1, 2025, the Washington State Patrol Firearms Background Check Program shall report annually to the legislature the average time between receipt of request for a firearms background check and final decision.

## **Timing of Eligibility for Vacation of Nonfelony Convictions**

### [SSB 5998](#)

Chapter 296, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Court Funding/Fees/LFOs, Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Reduces the waiting period before a court may vacate a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor conviction to three years after a person is released from the Department of Corrections (DOC) supervision or probation and removes the legal financial obligation payment completion requirement to begin the waiting period; the waiting period for a domestic violence offense is now five years after a person is released from DOC supervision or probation.

## **Supporting Victims of Human Trafficking and Sexual Abuse**

### [SSB 6006](#)

Chapter 298, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 7/1/2025

Redefines crimes of trafficking in the first degree and the second degree. Makes defense of consent unavailable if victim is a minor and defines terms including coercion, commercial sex act, kidnapping, maintain, sexual motivation, and sexually explicit act. Allocates how fees collected under this bill shall be remitted. Bill creates new section that requires state auditor to conduct performance audit of the collection and use of fees under RCW 9A.40.100 and publish final audit report by December 31, 2025. Under part one, definitions are updated in the bill to include dependent child, and abuse or neglect. Part two defines commercial sexual exploitation related to civil protection orders. Also gives Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and law enforcement ability to file a petition for sexual assault protection order on behalf of a minor if DCYF believes a minor lacks capacity to consent. Part four allows for prosecution of trafficking, commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor, promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor and permitting commercial sexual abuse of a minor to be prosecuted at any time after their commission. Increases age of child who makes statements that may be admissible in dependency and criminal proceedings from 14 and 16 to under 18 years old. Upon motion by prosecuting attorney for child under age of 18 to testify, factors in which court must find substantial evidence are updated. Initiation of civil proceedings shall be started within three years of certain offenses. Part five adds to victim privacy provisions by including commercial sexual exploitation and child victim of sexual assault or commercial sexual exploitation to list of allegations that allow for information to be confidential and not subject to release.

## **Concerning Employment Standards for Grocery Workers**

### [ESSB 6007](#)

Chapter 129, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Adds chapter to Title 49 RCW to protect the public and grocery workers by imposing duties on certain

incumbent and successor grocery store owners when ownership changes; requires successor retain certain employees for transitional period following change; and affords aggrieved employees a civil cause of action in superior court against violators.

### **Concerning the Sale or Lease of Manufactured/Mobile Home Communities**

[SSB 6059](#)

Chapter 325, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Clarifies timeframe within which sellers of manufactured/mobile home communities must give “notice of opportunity to compete to purchase” to eligible tenant and other organizations; specifies required notice content and response time for interested organizations; requires sellers to advise competing buyers when “preferred” offers are received, to work fairly with all such buyers, and to provide them highest bid information to permit them to make further competitive offers; mandates that park closure notices be given not less than two years before closure and clarifies to whom such notices may be given; and requires that landlords providing relocation assistance also provide recipients certain other information.

### **Reporting on Dependency Outcomes**

[E2SSB 6068](#)

Chapter 326, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile, AOC

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Seeking to expand the kind of data gathered and reported by Washington State on the outcomes of child dependency cases, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is required to provide a report to the Legislature that identifies measures of child well-being and relational permanency. The report is due July 1, 2025 and must include the following information:

- plan for reporting child well-being and relational permanency data;
- plan for tracking and reporting on whether or not an order was agreed or contested;
- the number of children in dependency who have incarcerated parents;
- how the data can be made available to the public;
- what existing data can be utilized and what additional information should be collected; and
- what data agreements are needed to effectuate the plan.

The AOC is required to consult with a range of experts, agencies and tribes and may execute data sharing agreements with other government entities.

### **Making Juvenile Detention Records Available to Managed Health Care Systems**

[SB 6079](#)

Chapter 99, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Defines "detention facility," and "managed care organization and behavioral health administrative services organization." Allows records of a juvenile in a detention facility to be available to a managed care organization and behavioral health administrative services organization for the purpose of coordinating care. Requires the organization receiving the records to comply with all state and federal statutes regarding privacy of disclosed records, including keeping them confidential.

### **Supporting Children and Families**

[E2SSB 6109](#)

Chapter 328, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, Juvenile

Categories: Family & Juvenile

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Part one defines "high-potency synthetic opioid" and requires courts, throughout the dependency process, to give great weight to the lethality of high-potency synthetic opioids when determining if removal is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the child due to child abuse or neglect. Depending on the hearing, the court shall consider public health guidance from the Department of Health related to high-potency synthetic opioids in addition to the great weight standard. Moreover, the Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop, deliver, and regularly update training related to child safety and the risk and danger to youth by high-potency synthetic opioids and other substances impacting families.

Part two requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to establish or fund and support a number of pilot programs. These pilots are to support infants and youth with substance exposure or involvement in the child welfare, child mental health, or juvenile justice systems. DCYF is to also enhance targeted contracts with existing home visiting programs. Part two also requires the Health Care Authority expand specific treatment and services to youth with prenatal substances exposure.

### **Concerning Tribal Warrants**

[SSB 6146](#)

Chapter 207, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 7/1/2025; except Section 17 which takes effect 5/1/2024

Creates the Tribal Warrant Act. Creates a procedure for state law enforcement officers and places of detention to deliver tribal fugitives to tribal authority for both certified and noncertified tribes. Arrest warrants from a certified tribe are accorded full faith and credit by state courts.

Extradition of individuals who have a non-certified tribal warrant and do not waive their right shall have a hearing at the closest superior court of the place of detention. The individual shall get notice of their extradition rights which include:

- 1) The non-certified tribe that issued the arrest warrant;
- 2) the basis of the charge;
- 3) the right to assistance of counsel;
- 4) right to a hearing to determine transfer of custody to the tribe.

If the right to the hearing is not waived the court shall hold a hearing in three judicial business days. The individual can be released along with conditions that assure availability of the individual or remain in custody. At the hearing the court will determine whether the person has been charged with or convicted of a crime by the tribe; whether the person before the court is the person named in the request; and whether the person is a fugitive. If the non-certified tribe does not take custody after the hearing after three judicial days the court can release the individual with conditions assuring their availability within seven days. If the tribe has not taken custody after the seven days the individual will be released.

### **Concerning Housing Affordability Tax Incentives for Existing Structures**

[E2SSB 6175](#)

Chapter 332, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Creates new chapter in Title 82 RCW authorizing covered cities and towns to establish sales and use tax deferral programs for conversions of existing underutilized commercial buildings in targeted urban areas to increase availability of affordable housing; specifies program criteria and eligibility requirements for owners and structures; makes eligibility determinations appealable to superior court; addresses tax liability of violators and those who discontinue participation; and includes sunset provision for select sections of Act.

### **Addressing Additional Work and Change Orders on Public and Private Construction Projects**

[SSB 6192](#)

Chapter 199, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Extends RCW 39.04.360 [payment of undisputed claim] protections afforded public works contractors on public works projects to subcontractors and suppliers on such projects and to all such entities in most private construction projects; requires timely issuance of requested change orders upon satisfactory completion of additional work; provides for accrual of interest for non or untimely issuance; and allows aggrieved parties to sue for relief in a "court of competent jurisdiction."

### **Concerning State Legislative Employee Collective Bargaining**

[E2SSB 6194](#)

Chapter 333, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior

Categories: Civil

Effective Date(s): 5/1/2024

Clarifies legislative employees and topics subject to collective bargaining; provides exemptions; authorizes employer bargaining teams; requires collective bargaining agreements be in writing and signed, provides for mediation in establishing them, and permits them to include arbitration provisions; authorizes certified employee representative to bargain for all employees in bargaining



unit and for Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) to determine appropriate unit; mandates questions within PERC's authority be decided by it or by Court; directs PERC to prevent unfair labor practices (ULPs), but limits filing period for ULP complaints and bars use of certain legislator-expressed views as evidence of such practice; requires complaints be filed with PERC or Thurston County Superior Court with cease and desist orders to issue with terms imposed for substantiated ULPs; and authorizes courts to issue various orders (*e.g.*, compelling arbitration and attendance at arbitration, for contempt against those failing to obey arbitrator subpoenas, and to enforce arbitration awards).

### **Concerning the Number of District Court Judges**

[SB 6222](#)

Chapter 103, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): D/M, AOC

Categories: Judicial Elections, Other/Informational

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Removes the authority of the state legislature to increase the number of district court judges and grants that authority to county legislatures upon recommendation from the state Supreme Court.

### **Allowing Entry of Civil Protection Order to Protect Victims when a Person is Found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity**

[SSB 6227](#)

Chapter 137, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Civil, Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

A civil protection order can be issued to protect victims from an individual who has been found not guilty by reason of insanity. Upon commitment to an inpatient treatment, conditional release, or upon application by a prosecuting attorney during which the court retains supervision over the individual a separate no contact order can be issued to protect the victim. The maximum length of the order is the maximum term of commitment or when the court releases the individual from supervision whichever comes first. Clerk of the court to provide a written certified copy of the order to the victim.

### **Concerning Transmission of Information Relating to Firearm Prohibitions for Persons Committed for Mental Health Treatment**

[ESB 6246](#)

Chapter 290, Laws of 2024

Court Level(s): Superior, D/M

Categories: Criminal

Effective Date(s): 6/6/2024

Modifies the crime of unlawful possession of a firearm to prohibit an individual who has a felony charge dismissed based on an incompetency to stand trial. Court must notify the individual both orally and in writing that they may not possess a firearm unless their right is restored by the superior court that issued the order. Court clerk must forward the person's firearm prohibition order and identifying information to the criminal division of the county prosecutor office in which the charges were dismissed or filed.

When a person is detained for a 120-hour civil commitment evaluation but not court-committed for involuntary treatment, a firearms prohibition order is entered following a dismissal of felony charges based on an incompetency to stand trial or a dismissal of a charge of a nonfelony offense based on an incompetency to stand trial with a finding by the court that the individual has a history of one or more violent acts. A court may not restore an individual's firearms rights if they are subject of an extreme risk protection order or an order to surrender and prohibit weapons is entered against the individual.

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Providing Tools Designed to Reduce the Impacts of Unlawful Solid Waste Dumping	2207	13	D/M
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Concerning Construction Crane Safety	2022	11	D/M
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**Court Level Key**

- All: all court levels
- Appellate: appellate courts
- S: superior courts
- J: juvenile courts
- D/M: district and municipal courts
- AOC: Administrative Office of the Courts