Board for Judicial Administration
House of Origin PRE-Policy Committee Cutoff Report

Current as of Thursday, February 19, 2015

Today is the 39th day of the 105-day legislative session. The first challenge for legislation comes on February 20, the 40th day of the legislative session, when bills must have moved from their policy committees to a fiscal committee or to Rules. Those bills not meeting the deadline should be considered "dead."

Here are the highlights regarding bills BJA is tracking and other legislation of interest:

BJA Request Legislation

HB 1061/SB 5174
SUMMARY: Changes the number of judges Skagit County District Court from two to three.
POSITION: BJA request
STATUS: the House General Government & Information Technology Committee took executive action on HB 1061 on February 6. The bill awaits action by the full House. Rep. Shea is proposing amendments that would require the judges to track their work hours and overnight stays. SB 5174, likewise, awaits action by the full body.

HB 1111
SUMMARY: Updating the court transcriptionist statutes and implements the recommendations of the Court Management Council, in conjunction with pending court rule.
POSITION: BJA Request
STATUS: Passed the House unanimously on February 12th. Referred to Senate Law & Justice.

DMCJA Request Legislation

SB 5125 /~~HB 1328~~
SUMMARY: Would increase district court civil jurisdiction from $75,000 to $100,000.
POSITION: DMCJA Request
STATUS: The Senate bill was heard in the Law & Justice Committee on January 22 and passed out of committee into Rules on 2/11. The House bill has not been heard, but another bill containing this provision passed the House.

~~SB 5126 /HB 1327~~
SUMMARY: Employment Security Department Subpoenas
POSITION: DMCJA withdrew request for this bill due to a potential conflict with federal law.
STATUS: Dead

~~HB 2097~~
SUMMARY: Authorizing parity with superior courts in the setting of jury fees
POSITION: DMCJA request.
STATUS: Dead

SCJA Request Legislation

HB 1617
SUMMARY: Would allow courts to consult the Judicial Information System and related databases to review criminal history and determine whether other proceedings involving the parties are pending prior to entering certain orders.
POSITION: SCJA Request
STATUS: The bill was heard in House Judiciary on February 3 and referred to Rules.

HB 1618
SUMMARY: Requires a person objecting to the relocation of a child to establish adequate cause for a hearing on the objection.
POSITION: SCJA Request
STATUS: It was heard in House Judiciary on February 5 and was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 5101
SUMMARY: Technical change to acknowledge that the Department of Corrections no longer files presentence reports and allows the court to a mental evaluation even in the absence of a presentence report.
POSITION: SCJA request
STATUS: It was heard in Senate Law & Justice on January 15 and awaits action by the full Senate.

SB 5104
SUMMARY: Allows a court to order participation in rehabilitative programs if the court finds that any chemical dependency contributed to the offense.
POSITION: SCJA Request
STATUS: This bill was allow heard in Senate Law & Justice on January 15 and now awaits action in Senate Rules.

DATA DISSEMINATION/ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS

HB 1481/SB 5564
SUMMARY: Eliminates most juvenile offender legal financial obligations and allows for sealing when 80% of restitution is paid.
POSITION: No position
STATUS: Bill is being negotiated. Heard in House Judiciary, moved to General Government & Information Technology for hearing on 2/20. Executive action taken on senate bill on 2/19.

HB 1553
SUMMARY: Creates a process by which a person with a criminal record can be granted a certificate of restoration of opportunity, which removes any professional bar imposed solely as a result of the conviction.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: On House Floor calendar.

BILLS AFFECTING AOC EMPLOYEES AND/OR JUDGES

HB 1397/~~SB 5308~~
SUMMARY: Allows judges and certain others to provide only city and county to the Public Disclosure Commission rather than full address.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Bill is being negotiated. House bill was heard in State Government and moved to Rules. Senate bill is dead.

SB 5980
SUMMARY: Creates a defined contribution plan for elected officials. Does not include judges.
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC staff does not work on retirement bills.
STATUS: Referred to ways and Means

SB 6005
SUMMARY: Changes the average final wage calculation for retirees hired after 7/1/15.
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC staff does not work on retirement bills.
STATUS: Referred to Ways & Means

SB 5982
SUMMARY: Increases the retirement age for persons hired after 12/31/15
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC staff does not work on retirement bills.
STATUS: Referred to Ways & Means

ELECTIONS

HB 1051
SUMMARY: Makes Supreme Court justice elections partisan.
POSITION: Oppose
STATUS: Dead

HB 1350
SUMMARY: Providing for the election of Supreme Court justices from three judicial districts.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

HB 2030
SUMMARY: Establishing districts from which Supreme Court justices are elected.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

HJR 4201
SUMMARY: Creating election districts for Supreme Court judicial positions.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

HJR 4207
SUMMARY: Requires that all mandatory, regulatory, licensing, and disciplinary functions regarding the practice of law and administration of justice reside exclusively in the Supreme Court.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Dead

HJR 4211
SUMMARY: Amending the Constitution to provide for Supreme Court districts.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

SB 5685
SUMMARY: Concerning the election of Supreme Court justices by district.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

SJR 8205
SUMMARY: Amending the state Constitution so that justices of the Supreme Court are elected by qualified electors of a Supreme Court judicial district.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Heard in Senate Law & Justice on 1/29. Passed on a party-line vote to Rules.

PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

~~HB 1305~~/SB 5107
SUMMARY: Encourages the creation of therapeutic courts in Washington and consolidates current law into a single chapter.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Senate bill passed senate unanimously. Referred to House Judiciary.

LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

~~HB 1016~~
SUMMARY: If offender is homeless or mentally ill, failure to pay legal financial obligations is not willful noncompliance.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Dead

HB 1390/~~SB 5713~~
SUMMARY: Eliminates interest accrual on the non-restitution portions of legal financial obligations and modifies standards to reduce or waive interest. Creates indigency exception. Establishes provisions governing payment plans and priority of payment of LFOs. Addresses sanctioning for noncompliance. Makes DNA fee a one-time payment.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Bill is being negotiated. Heard in House Judiciary on 1/21 and executive action was taken on 2/19.

JURY SERVICE

HB 1610
SUMMARY: Reduces the term of service for jurors. Allows exception for smaller jury pools.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Heard in House Judiciary on 2/10. Executive action taken on 2/19.

OTHER

~~HB 1772~~
SUMMARY: Repealing provisions concerning the Washington State Bar Association.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Dead

HB 1885/SB 5755
SUMMARY: Implements recommendations of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative by addressing and mitigating the impacts of property crimes.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Bill is being negotiated. Heard in House Public Safety on 2/11 and executive action is scheduled for 2/20. Senate bill heard in Law & Justice on 2/16 and executive action was taken on 2/18.

HB 1943
SUMMARY: Creates standards for electronic monitoring/home detention. Requires AOC to develop forms.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Amendments to bill have been suggested by WASPC. Bill was heard in House Public Safety on 2/17 and executive action is scheduled for 2/20.

~~HB 2076~~/SB 5752
SUMMARY: The Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) must establish a procedure for producing racial impact statements on the effect proposed legislation will have on racial and ethnic minorities, including how legislation will impact the racial and ethnic composition of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
POSITION: None taken
STATUS: Heard in in Senate Government Operations & Security on 2/10 and executive action was taken on 2/19.

HB 2085
SUMMARY: Authorizes community restitution/community service in lieu of payment for traffic infractions.
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC offered a technical amendment.
STATUS: Heard in House Public Safety on 2/17 and executive action is scheduled for 2/20.

SB 5449
SUMMARY: Creates a tax division of the court of appeals.
POSITION: Concerns
STATUS: Herard in joint session of Senate Law & Justice and Trade & Economic Development on 1/26.

SB 5647
SUMMARY: Allowing counties to create guardianship courthouse facilitator programs.
POSITION: No position
STATUS: Heard in Senate Human Services, Mental Health & Housing on 2/3. Moved to Rules.

SB 5766
SUMMARY: Concerning monitoring agencies providing electronic monitoring.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Heard in Senate Law & Justice and amended in executive action on 2/19.

BUDGET

HB 1105/SB 5076
SUMMARY: Early supplemental operating budget, limited to wildfire and mental health needs.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Signed by governor

HB 1106/SB 5077
SUMMARY: Making 2015-2017 operating appropriations.
POSITION: Pro on judicial branch section. (Governor's version includes Supreme Court budget)
STATUS: Heard in House and Senate on 1/14.

HB 1115/ SB 5096
SUMMARY: Capital budget includes funding for maintenance of Temple of Justice.
POSITION: Support judicial branch portions.
STATUS: Heard in House on 1/20 and Senate on 2/5.

SB 5064/ HB 1477
SUMMARY: Requires a quarterly revenue forecast on February 20th during both a long and short legislative session year.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Senate bill passed senate unanimously. No hearing scheduled on House bill.