

JUDICIAL IMPACT FISCAL NOTE

Bill Number: 6002 SSB	Title: Voting Rights Act	Agency: 055 – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
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Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

	FY 2018	FY 2019	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
Total:					

Estimated Expenditures from:

STATE	FY 2018	FY 2019	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
FTE – Staff Years					
Account					
General Fund – State (001-1)					
State Subtotal					
COUNTY					
County FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Counties					
Counties Subtotal					
CITY					
City FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local – Cities					
Cities Subtotal					
Local Subtotal					
Total Estimated Expenditures:					

The revenue and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Responsibility for expenditures may be subject to the provisions of RCW 43.135.060.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☐ If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form parts I-V

☒ If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

Legislative Contact:	Phone:	Date:
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Agency Approval: Ramsey Radwan	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date:
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

Part II: Narrative Explanation

This bill would create a Washington state Voting Rights Act.

The bill would provide for a cause of action and would authorize courts to order appropriate remedies for violations of the Voting Rights Act. This would include redistricting within a political subdivision.

Part II.A – Brief Description of what the Measure does that has fiscal impact on the Courts

This bill would provide for a person to file a lawsuit alleging violations of the Voting Rights Act. The action would be filed in a superior court. If the action is against a county, it may be filed in a superior court of either of the two nearest judicial districts. The trial would be required to be set no later than one year after the filing of the complaint.

A court would be required to analyze the elections conducted prior to the filing of the legal action. To determine the existence of polarized voting, a court may only analyze the elections conducted prior to the legal action, including the election of candidates, ballot measure elections, and elections that impact the rights and privileges of a protected class.

A court may order appropriate remedies for a violation, including requiring a political subdivision to redistrict or create a district-based election system. A court may award attorney's fees and cost to a prevailing plaintiff.

II.B - Cash Receipt Impact

None.

II.C – Expenditures

Indeterminate. There is no data available to estimate the number of actions that would result from this bill, but the number of potential actions is expected to be minimal. However, if an action is filed and requires judicial officer review, an action of this type could result in expenditures in excess of \$50,000. The \$50,000 expenditure level represents approximately 90 hours (0.08 FTE) of superior court judicial officer time annually cumulative for all superior courts in the state with associated support staff and operational costs.

Court education would be required. This would be managed within existing resources.