

JUDICIAL IMPACT FISCAL NOTE

Bill Number: 1227 E2SHB	Title: Rights of Families – Allegations of Abuse	Agency: 055 – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
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Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

	FY 2022	FY 2023	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
Total:					

Estimated Expenditures from:

STATE	FY 2022	FY 2023	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
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:
Agency Preparation: Sam Knutson	Phone: 360-704-5528	Date: 3/12/2021
Agency Approval: Ramsey Radwan	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date:
OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

Part II: Narrative Explanation

This bill would require a court to release a child to a parent unless the court finds reasonable cause to believe removal of the child is necessary to prevent imminent physical harm and the evidence shows a causal relationship between the conditions in the home and imminent physical harm to the child.

The bill would require the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to make continuing efforts to place children with relatives and requires such placement unless there is no relative capable of ensuring the basic safety of the child.

The bill would require courts, law enforcement, and hospitals to find the removal or detention of a child is necessary to prevent imminent physical harm due to child abuse or neglect before authorizing removal or detention of the child.

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

II.B - Cash Receipt Impact

None.

II.C – Expenditures

PLEASE NOTE: Previous Judicial Impact Notes for the underlying HB 1227, SHB 1227 and 2SHB 1227 versions of this bill did not include an estimate of the possible time increase for shelter care hearings that is provided below. Subsequent analysis of the time necessary for the required additional findings (as multiple individuals will need to have time to be heard) has determined that each shelter care hearing will be increased by approximately one hour.

Indeterminate, but likely to be substantial. The bill will likely increase the length of shelter care hearings by approximately one hour. DCYF data provides an average of 4,860 children per year (over a three-year sample period) are involuntarily removed from their parents. DCYF estimates this bill will reduce involuntary removals by five percent, or 243 removals. Thus, it can be assumed that, on average, 4,617 shelter care hearings may be impacted.

If a parent is not represented by counsel, a County Clerk would be required to provide information to the parent regarding how to obtain counsel.

Forms would need to be revised, and judicial education would be required. These impacts would be managed within existing resources.