

Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1902 HB	Title: Firearms/purchase & transfer	Agency: 055-Administrative Office of the Courts
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Expenditures from:

STATE	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
State FTE Staff Years		1.7	.8		
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1		302,000	302,000		
State Subtotal \$		302,000	302,000		
COUNTY	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
County FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Counties		22,000	22,000	44,000	44,000
Counties Subtotal \$		22,000	22,000	44,000	44,000
CITY	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
City FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Cities					
Cities Subtotal \$					

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

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 for 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.

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OFM Review:	Phone:	Date:

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Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact on the Courts

This bill would have fiscal impact to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Courts by amending Chapter 9.41 RCW – Firearms and Dangerous Weapons and Chapter 7.105 RCW – Civil Protection Orders.

Section 1 of the bill would prohibit a dealer from delivering a firearm to a purchaser until the purchaser produces a valid permit to purchase firearms. In the following cases, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) would advise a dealer that the delivery of the firearm is delayed:

- Section 1(3)(a) Existence of Outstanding Warrants.
- Section 1(3)(b)(a) Open criminal charges.
- Section 1(3)(b)(b) Pending criminal proceedings.
- Section 1(3)(b)(c) Pending commitment proceedings.
- Section 1(3)(b)(d) Arrest for an offense making a person ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a firearm.

Section 2(7)(a)(iii) would require an application for a permit to purchase firearms be denied if a person is free on bond or personal recognizance.

Numerous sections throughout the bill would require minor updates to protection order, extreme risk protection order, weapons surrender, and no contact order forms. The sections would also include requirements for clerks and court administrators to send additional documents to law enforcement and/or the WSP (Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27).

Section 36 establishes the effective date as January 1, 2026.

II. B - Cash Receipts Impact

None

II. C - Expenditures

Generally, this fiscal note only assumes fiscal impact from Section 2(7)(a)(iii) and the impact of forms updates. The WSP would have other data sources available to them through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Washington State Health Care Authority, existing WSP databases, and other local law enforcement agencies.

However, a description of either no fiscal impact or a range of costs is provided for Section 1 if AOC were required to change business processes, collect, and report data that is currently unavailable.

FISCAL IMPACT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS AND THE COURTS

Section 2(7)(a)(iii) would require an application for a permit to purchase firearms be denied if a person is free on bond or personal recognizance. This information should be already included in pending charges. However, the AOC cannot distinguish it because there is not a specific event code identifying persons released on bond and persons released on personal recognizance. Also, bond information is not specific enough to get meaningful data.

If the AOC needs to provide this information, it would require creating new codes in the case management systems to distinguish bond and personal recognizance and changing current court business processes that facilitate a requirement for entry of this data. This would be a new business requirement to rework the existing WSP/AOC response schema, development, testing, etc. The cost would be about \$293,000 using the following assumptions:

Business Analyst. Beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, AOC would require salary, benefits, and associated standard costs for 0.4 FTE and 2,088 staff hours (one-year) at an average of approximately \$104 per hour across multiple job classifications on the Enterprise Data Repository (EDR) Team needed to complete the interface (Business Analyst, System Integrator, Senior System Integrator, IT Supervisor, and Manager).

Assuming unique order codes are made available to identify if a person is released with a bond requirement or released on personal recognizance, clerks would spend an additional 5 minutes entering and processing pleadings.

Superior Courts Criminal and Juvenile = \$22,000 per fiscal year, assume one-half in FY 2026 considering the effective date of the bill.

Average Number of Pleadings per Year = 5,332

Minutes per Charge = 5

Additional Clerk Hours = 444

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Cost per Hour = \$50

Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 would require minor updates to protection order, extreme risk protection order, weapons surrender, and no contact order forms. This is estimated to cost \$9,000.

Legal Services Senior Analyst. Beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, AOC would require salary, benefits, and associated standard costs for 0.02 FTE to update and translate court forms.

The AOC costs are assumed in FY 2025 so the work would be completed in advance of the bill's implementation date of January 1, 2026. Court costs would not be incurred until January 1, 2026.

AOC STAFF IMPACTS INCLUDE STANDARD COSTS

Salary estimates are current biennium actual rates at Step L.

Benefits are the agency average of 30.59% of salaries.

Goods and Services are the agency average of \$3,600 per direct program FTE.

Travel is the agency average of \$2,000 per direct program FTE.

Ongoing Equipment is the agency average of \$1,800 per direct program FTE.

One-time IT Equipment is \$4,800 for the first fiscal year per direct program FTE.

Agency Indirect is calculated at a rate of 25.86% of direct program salaries and benefits.

INDETERMINATE IMPACT TO SUPERIOR COURTS AND COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

There is no anticipated impact to Courts due to an increase in case filings. However, there are indeterminate and possible impacts to clerks and court administrators. Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 would require an additional 15 minutes document that would need to be sent to law enforcement and/or the WSP. However, there is not estimate available for the additional number of documents.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS AND SUPERIOR/COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION NO FISCAL IMPACT OR POSSIBLE COSTS

Section 1 outlines circumstances when the WSP would advise that the delivery of the firearm is delayed:

- **POSSIBLE COSTS:** Section 1(3)(a) Existence of Outstanding Warrants. AOC assumes no impact. This information could be obtained from alternative sources, i.e., sheriff's office. WSP should be accessing warrant information directly from law enforcement agencies that possess the information before it reaches the courts.

If the AOC were required to provide this information, it would require significant changes to the court business process, the EDR, and WSP/AOC firearms data exchange. This would be a new business requirement to rework the existing WSP/AOC response schema, development, testing, etc. The cost would be about \$51,000 using the following assumptions:

Business Analyst. Beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, AOC would require salary, benefits, and associated standard costs for 0.1 FTE and 300 staff hours at an average of approximately \$104 per hour across multiple job classifications on the EDR Team needed to complete the interface (Business Analyst, System Integrator, Senior System Integrator, IT Supervisor, and Manager).

- **NO IMPACT:** Section 1(3)(b)(a) Open criminal charges. AOC assumes no fiscal impact because this is already in place. If there was a hit from the AOC data query, then the AOC would send all criminal and juvenile case data to the WSP Secure Automated Firearms E-check (SAFE) team.
- **NO IMPACT:** Section 1(3)(b)(b) Pending criminal proceedings. AOC assumes no fiscal impact because the data is currently pending development. The WSP SAFE team would be receiving all criminal and juvenile cases that meet the person matching (case history for an individual) criteria.
- **NO IMPACT:** Section 1(3)(b)(c) Pending commitment proceedings. AOC assumes no impact because person record data is not available for civil commitment proceeding actions from the AOC. This information could be obtained from Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA).
- **NO IMPACT:** Section 1(3)(b)(d) Arrest for an offense making a person ineligible under RCW 9.41.040 to possess a firearm. AOC and the Courts assume no fiscal impact because arrest data is not collected and entered into the case management systems. This information

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could be obtained from alternative sources, i.e., law enforcement agencies.

If AOC were required to send this data, then it would require a change in court business process to enter the arrest date. The change would require arrest data to be part of criminal case filing information, making arrest data sent from the AOC not available until case filing is completed. Assuming the all arrest date is provided at the time of case filing and no further action was needed by clerks or court administrators, it would take 15 additional minutes per charge to enter the arrest data.

Superior Courts Criminal and Juvenile = \$986,000 per fiscal year
 Average Number of Charges per Year = 78,879
 Minutes per Charge = 15
 Additional Clerk/Court Administrator Hours = 19,720
 Cost per Hour = \$50

Courts of Limited Jurisdiction = \$2,619,000 per fiscal Year
 Average Number of Charges per year = 210,524
 Minutes per Charge = 15
 Additional Clerk/Court Administrator Hours = 52,381
 Cost per Hour = \$50

Part III: Expenditure Detail

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (State)

<u>State</u>	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		1.7	.8		
Salaries and Wages		174,400	174,400		
Employee Benefits		53,300	53,300		
Professional Service Contracts					
Goods and Other Services		10,100	10,100		
Travel		2,800	2,800		
Capital Outlays		2,500	2,500		
Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
Debt Service					
Interagency Reimbursements					
Intra-Agency Reimbursements		58,900	58,900		
Total \$		302,000	302,000		

III. B - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (County)

<u>County</u>	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years					
Salaries and Benefits					
Capital					
Other		22,000	22,000	44,000	44,000
Total \$		22,000	22,000	44,000	44,000

III. C - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (City)

<i>City</i>	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years					
Salaries and Benefits					
Capital					
Other					
Total \$					

III. C - Expenditure By Object or Purpose (City)

NONE

III. D - FTE Detail

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Business Analyst	108,300		0.5	0.3		
Legal Services Senior Analyst	122,600		0.0	0.0		
Project Manager	128,600		1.2	0.6		
Total FTEs			1.7	0.8		0.0

III. E - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B1 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (State)

NONE

IV. B2 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (County)

NONE

IV. B3 - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose (City)

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE