

Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1592 HB	Title: Public defense services	Agency: 055-Administrative Office of the Courts
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Part I: Estimates

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No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Expenditures from:

STATE	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
State FTE Staff Years					
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	15,800		15,800		
State Subtotal \$	15,800		15,800		
COUNTY	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
County FTE Staff Years					
Account					
Local - Counties					
Counties Subtotal \$					
CITY	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
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:

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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.

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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).

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Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

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200,684.00

Request # 140-1

Form FN (Rev 1/00)

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Bill # 1592 HB

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

Section 1 changes the funding responsibilities of public defense services to include both state and local governments. Under the bill, starting in Fiscal Year 2026, the state will be responsible for 50 percent of average public defense costs incurred at the local level. Local governments are required to collect and report data annually regarding the use of public defense services.

Section 2 allows any county with a population density of less than 50 persons per square mile may request that the state Office of Public Defense assume responsibility for providing all or part of the county’s public defense services. In these instances, the county opting-in should contribute local funds to the Office of Public Defense in order to cover these expenses.

Section 3 requires an appropriation for the office of public defense.

Section 4 requires the office of public defense to examine caseloads and backlogs and make recommendations to the legislature.

Section 5 requires the administrative office of the courts to collect data detailing the number of cases assigned a public defense and include this information in its annual report.

II. B - Cash Receipts Impact

II. C - Expenditures

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

This bill will require 200 hours to develop, enhance and update forms and codes that will allow the AOC to track public defender cases. This is estimated to be \$15,800.00 in FY 2026.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

Part III: Expenditure Detail

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

State	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years					
Salaries and Wages	9,100		9,100		
Employee Benefits	2,800		2,800		
Professional Service Contracts					
Goods and Other Services	400		400		
Travel	200		200		
Capital Outlays	200		200		
Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
Debt Service					
Interagency Reimbursements					
Intra-Agency Reimbursements	3,100		3,100		
Total \$	15,800		15,800		

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

NONE

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

NONE

III. D - FTE Detail

NONE

200,684.00

Form FN (Rev 1/00)

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