



WASHINGTON
COURTS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

2024 BJA/AOC Request Legislation

Interbranch Advisory Committee
September 22, 2023

Proposal 1

Title: Water Rights Adjudication Judicial Position

Summary: This proposal is requesting an additional superior court judicial position to address the water rights adjudication filed by the Department of Ecology in Whatcom County (WRIA 1 Nooksack Watershed).

Prime Sponsor: Senator Sharon Shewmake

Proposal 2

Title: Water Rights Adjudication Commissioner Position

Summary: This proposal is a request to create a statutory commissioner position to assist in addressing the water rights adjudication filed by the Department of Ecology in Whatcom County superior court & allow for the appointment of a referee without party consent.

Prime Sponsor: Senator Sharon Shewmake

Proposal 3

Title: Notice of Court Reorganization

Summary: This proposal would require counties and cities to provide one-year written notice to AOC with changes to court or technology services, and vendors. This notification is in addition to the notice that they already provide to the party with which they are terminating service.

Prime Sponsor: Not yet decided

Proposal 4

Title: Court Interpreter Statutory Revisions (RCW 2.43)

Summary: This proposal changes Washington statute to be compliant with the Department of Justice (DOJ) policy interpretations of Title VI; updates statutory language to align with operations conducted by AOCs Court Interpreter program; updates the policy regarding the Language Access and Interpreter Reimbursement Program (LAIRP) to allow more robust funding to courts resulting from the increased resources made available after the success of the BJA's Interpreter Services Funding Taskforce.

Prime Sponsor: Not yet decided

Proposal 5

Title: Clark County & Cowlitz County Superior Court Judicial Position(s)

Summary: These proposals are for an additional superior court judicial position for Clark County and Cowlitz County. Clark County (RCW 2.08.062) is requesting their 12th judicial officer and Cowlitz County (RCW 2.08.064) is requesting their 6th judicial officer. Both requests are supported by the most recent Judicial Needs Estimate (JNE) completed.

Prime Sponsor: Senator Lynda Wilson

Proposal 6

Title: Supreme Court Bailiff Information Sharing & Investigative Authority

Summary: This proposal would create limited investigative authority for the Supreme Court Bailiffs, so that they can access criminal history data to properly assess security threats and communicate with law enforcement. Further establishing standards for communication and follow-up when Supreme Court Bailiffs report a potential security threat to local law enforcement agencies.

Prime Sponsor(s): Representative Roger Goodman & Senator John Lovick