

AOC Agency Request Legislation - 2023

Proposal #1 – Jury Diversity Package	
Summary	<p>Courts across the country struggle with an under-representation of racial and ethnic minorities in their jury pools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies have shown that racially diverse juries spend more time deliberating, make fewer errors, and result in fairer trials than non-diverse juries. <p>Contains 4 subproposals:</p> <p><i>Subproposal #1 – Continues the 2021 MJC Jury Demographic Survey</i></p> <p><i>Subproposal #2 – Establishes a pilot project to explore if free childcare would increase jury diversity and juror response rates</i></p> <p><i>Subproposal #3 – Increasing Juror Pay</i></p> <p><i>Subproposal #4 – Addition of Email Summons for Jury Service</i></p>
Proposal #2 – Eliminating Reporting Requirements for RCW 9.73.120	
Summary	<p>Currently, RCW 9.73.120 requires AOC to collect information regarding judicial authorizations for the interception, recording, or disclosure of communications or conversations with a nonconsenting party (wire taps).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information in the report tends to be vague. Further, it does not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ give background information on why an authorization was granted, ○ show trends on how often law enforcements ask for an authorization. <p>This report is an administrative burden for AOC and the Courts and is not being used to inform further decisions on how these authorizations work.</p>
Proposal #3 – Additional Judicial Position for Snohomish County District Court	
Summary	<p>Snohomish County District Court needs to increase the number of judges to nine in order to respond to the growing population base, adapt to the increased time needed to increase access with virtual hearings, to increase capacity for the adoption of additional therapeutic court models, and to balance the workloads between divisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snohomish County’s population has grown by over 15% since 2010, but no new judicial officers have been added to serve the increased population. • The Snohomish County District Court currently has eight judges and one commissioner. The most recent Judicial Needs Estimate recommends 9.56 judicial officers are needed.
Proposal #4 – Increasing Superior Court Pro Tem Compensation	
Summary	<p>Retired superior court judges and Supreme Court justices, serving as judges pro tempore in Washington’s superior courts receive compensation at a rate of 60% of that paid to attorneys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This pay reduction for retired judges, dating to legislation passed in 1967, has made it difficult to attract retired superior court judges out of retirement to serve as judges pro tempore. • The current rate for a superior court pro tem is around \$116 per hour. Retired superior court judges and Supreme Court justices are paid \$69.60 per hour.

Questions/Comments/Concerns:

- *Brittany Gregory*, Director of OLJR at AOC (Email: Brittany.Gregory@courts.wa.gov)
- *Haily Perkins*, Court Program Analyst for OJLR (Email: Haily.Perkins@courts.wa.gov)