Board for Judicial Administration
Opposite House Fiscal Committee Cutoff Report

Current as of Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Today is the 87th day of the 105-day legislative session. Tuesday, April 7, was the last day by which bills must have passed out of their fiscal committees in the opposite house. Bills necessary to implement the budget are not limited by these cutoffs.

Here are the highlights regarding bills BJA is tracking and other legislation of interest:

BJA Request Legislation

~~HB 1061~~/SB 5174
SUMMARY: Changes the number of judges Skagit County District Court from two to three.
POSITION: BJA request
STATUS: SB 5174 passed Senate unanimously and is in House Rules

HB 1111
SUMMARY: Updating the court transcriptionist statutes and implements the recommendations of the Court Management Council, in conjunction with pending court rule.
POSITION: BJA Request
STATUS: Passed the House unanimously and is on the Senate floor calendar

DMCJA Request Legislation

SB 5125 /~~HB 1328~~
SUMMARY: Would increase district court civil jurisdiction from $75,000 to $100,000.
POSITION: DMCJA Request
STATUS: Passed the Senate unanimously and is in House Rules

~~SB 5126 /HB 1327~~
SUMMARY: Employment Security Department Subpoenas
POSITION: DMCJA withdrew request for this bill due to a potential conflict with federal law.
STATUS: Dead

~~HB 2097~~
SUMMARY: Authorizing parity with superior courts in the setting of jury fees
POSITION: DMCJA request.
STATUS: Dead

SCJA Request Legislation

SHB 1617
SUMMARY: Would allow courts to consult the Judicial Information System and related databases to review criminal history and determine whether other proceedings involving the parties are pending prior to entering certain orders.
POSITION: SCJA Request
STATUS: Passed House 92-6 and is in Senate Rules

~~HB 1618~~
SUMMARY: Requires a person objecting to the relocation of a child to establish adequate cause for a hearing on the objection.
POSITION: SCJA Request
STATUS: Died in House Rules

SB 5101
SUMMARY: Technical change to acknowledge that the Department of Corrections no longer files presentence reports and allows the court to a mental evaluation even in the absence of a presentence report.
POSITION: SCJA request
STATUS: Passed Senate unanimously and is in House Rules

SB 5104
SUMMARY: Allows a court to order participation in rehabilitative programs if the court finds that any chemical dependency contributed to the offense.
POSITION: SCJA Request
STATUS: Passed Senate unanimously and is in House Rules

DATA DISSEMINATION/ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS

~~HB 1481~~/E2SSB 5564
SUMMARY: Eliminates most juvenile offender legal financial obligations and allows for sealing when 80% of restitution is paid. Has been amended many times.
POSITION: Support.
STATUS: Passed Senate 48-1 and is in House Rules

~~ESHB 1553~~
SUMMARY: Creates a process by which a person with a criminal record can be granted a certificate of restoration of opportunity, which removes any professional bar imposed solely as a result of the conviction.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Passed House unanimously but died in Senate Law & Justice

BILLS AFFECTING AOC EMPLOYEES AND/OR JUDGES

~~HB 1028~~
SUMMARY: Requires cities and counties to provide court security.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Dead

HB 1397/~~SB 5308~~
SUMMARY: Amended to allow judges and certain others to maintain their address confidentiality for their time in office rather than needing to resubmit the request.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Passed House 78-20 and is in Senate Rules

SB 5980
SUMMARY: Creates a defined contribution plan for elected officials. Does not include judges.
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC staff does not work on retirement bills.
STATUS: Referred to Ways and Means

SB 5982
SUMMARY: Increases the retirement age for persons hired after 12/31/15
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC staff does not work on retirement bills.
STATUS: Heard in Ways & Means on March 24

SB 6005
SUMMARY: Changes the average final wage calculation for retirees hired after 7/1/15.
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC staff does not work on retirement bills.
STATUS: Heard in Ways & Means on March 24

ELECTIONS

~~HB 1051~~
SUMMARY: Makes Supreme Court justice elections partisan.
POSITION: Oppose
STATUS: Dead

~~HB 1350~~
SUMMARY: Providing for the election of Supreme Court justices from three judicial districts.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

~~HB 2030~~
SUMMARY: Establishing districts from which Supreme Court justices are elected.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

~~HJR 4201~~
SUMMARY: Creating election districts for Supreme Court judicial positions.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

~~HJR 4207~~
SUMMARY: Requires that all mandatory, regulatory, licensing, and disciplinary functions regarding the practice of law and administration of justice reside exclusively in the Supreme Court.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Dead

~~HJR 4211~~
SUMMARY: Amending the Constitution to provide for Supreme Court districts.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

~~SB 5685~~
SUMMARY: Concerning the election of Supreme Court justices by district.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Dead

~~SJR 8205~~
SUMMARY: Amending the state Constitution so that justices of the Supreme Court are elected by qualified electors of a Supreme Court judicial district.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Died in Senate Rules

PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

~~HB 1305~~/SB 5107
SUMMARY: Encourages the creation of therapeutic courts in Washington and consolidates current law into a single chapter.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Passed Senate unanimously and was amended in House Appropriations on April 7

LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

~~HB 1016~~
SUMMARY: If offender is homeless or mentally ill, failure to pay legal financial obligations is not willful noncompliance.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Dead

E2SHB 1390/~~SB 5713~~
SUMMARY: Amended in Senate Law & Justice to reduce interest rates on legal financial obligations to 6%. Limits collection of DNA fee to one time. Adds language that states courts do not have to make an individualized inquiry into the defendant's current and future ability to pay.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Bill passed House 94-4 and was amended in Law & Justice and Ways & Means. Bill passed Ways & Means on April 7

JURY SERVICE

SHB 1610
SUMMARY: Reduces the term of service for jurors. Allows exception for smaller jury pools.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Signed by Governor Inslee on April 1

FILING FEES

EHB 1729
SUMMARY: As amended in Senate Human Services, adds a $15 surcharge to dissolution filings to fund the DV Prevention Account. The surcharge expires in 2020.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: In Senate Rules

SB 6092
SUMMARY: Court marshals are added to the list of uniformed personnel entitled to use interest arbitration under PECBA. A $1 surcharge is imposed on small claims actions. 25% remits to the state judicial stabilization trust account and 75% is retained by the county for courthouse security.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: In Senate Rules

OTHER

~~HB 1772~~
SUMMARY: Repealing provisions concerning the Washington State Bar Association.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Dead

~~HB 1885~~/~~2SSB 5755~~
SUMMARY: Implements recommendations of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative by addressing and mitigating the impacts of property crimes.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Senate bill passed 40-9 and was heard in House Public Safety on March 24. Dead unless resurrected during the budget process

E2HB 1943
SUMMARY: Creates standards for electronic monitoring/home detention. Requires AOC to develop forms.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: In Senate Rules

~~HB 2076/SSB 5752~~
SUMMARY: The Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) must make recommendations for producing racial impact statements on the effect proposed legislation will have on racial and ethnic minorities, including how legislation will impact the racial and ethnic composition of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
POSITION: Support
STATUS: Bill died in Rules

SHB 2085
SUMMARY: Authorizes community restitution/community service in lieu of payment for traffic infractions.
POSITION: Not reviewed. AOC offered a technical amendment.
STATUS: Passed House 83-15, was amended in Senate Law & Justice and referred to Rules

2SSB 5449/~~HB 2111~~
SUMMARY: Creates a tax division of the court of appeals.
POSITION: Concerns
STATUS: Is in Senate Rules and referenced in Senate budget

SB 5647
SUMMARY: Allowing counties to create guardianship courthouse facilitator programs.
POSITION: No position
STATUS: Passed Senate 48-0 and is in House Rules

SB 5658
SUMMARY: The requirement to process certain documents is moved from the county clerk to the petitioning party. Amended to remove sections relating to juvenile records in Judiciary.
POSITION: Not reviewed.
STATUS: Passed Senate 47-1 and is in House Rules

~~SB 5766~~
SUMMARY: Concerning monitoring agencies providing electronic monitoring.
POSITION: Watch
STATUS: Died in Senate Rules

BUDGET

HB 1105/SB 5076
SUMMARY: Early supplemental operating budget, limited to wildfire and mental health needs.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Signed by governor

HB 1106/SB 5077
SUMMARY: Making 2015-2017 operating appropriations.
POSITION: Pro on judicial branch section in Governor's budget. House Appropriations draft is ok. Senate chair's draft is untenable. (Governor's version includes Supreme Court budget)
STATUS: Committee and floor action occurring during the week of March 30-April 3. Negotiations will follow.

EHB 1115/ ~~SB 5097~~
SUMMARY: Capital budget request funding for maintenance and security of Temple of Justice.
POSITION: Support judicial branch portions.
STATUS: Request was not included. Passed House 96-2. Scheduled for executive action in Ways & Means on April 9

SB 5064/ ~~HB 1477~~
SUMMARY: Requires a quarterly revenue forecast on February 20th during both a long and short legislative session year.
POSITION: Not reviewed
STATUS: Senate bill passed senate unanimously and referred to Appropriations