

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1174 S HB	Title: Court interpreters
-------------------------------	----------------------------------

Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2025-27		2027-29		2029-31	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.											
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

Prepared by: Gaius Horton, OFM	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date Published: Final 2/25/2025
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------	---

Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

Revised

Bill Number: 1174 S HB	Title: Court interpreters	Agency: 055-Administrative Office of the Courts
-------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Expenditures from:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

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.

Legislative Contact: Yvonne Walker	Phone: 360-786-7841	Date: 02/18/2025
Agency Preparation: Chris Conn	Phone: 360-704-5512	Date: 02/19/2025
Agency Approval: Chris Stanley	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date: 02/19/2025
OFM Review: Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/20/2025

203,006.00

Request # 232-1

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

This substitute bill amends section 2 (b)(i) by adding “subject to the availability of funds” and that a person with limited English proficiency is not responsible for the cost of an interpreter if certain criteria are met. It also adds section 2(b)(ii) stating that court mandated classes do not require the use of court credentialed interpreters.

The substitute would not make any changes affecting the fiscal impact to the Administrative Office of the Courts or the courts.

II. B - Cash Receipts Impact

None

II. C - Expenditures

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Impact is indeterminate. The funding amounts listed below are based on the following assumptions:

1. Interpreter hourly rate of \$40.17 by averaging minimum amount (\$32.86) and maximum amount (\$47.47).
2. Initial assessments are 1.25 hours and mandatory classes are at least 8 hours.
3. The number of cases were derived from data from 2022 and 2023. This data was extrapolated out to 2031 and then divided by 10 to get an average.
4. Numbers assume 100% utilization (high) and 33% utilization (low).

The total costs for this period could be as high as \$2,190,000 or as low as \$547,200 with the total assessments / mandatory classes being 7,554 (high) and 1,890 (low).

The costs and cases spread out by fiscal year are as follows with the high value first and low value second:

FY26: \$365,000 / 1,259 cases; \$91,200 / 315 cases
FY27: \$365,000 / 1,259 cases; \$91,200 / 315 cases
FY28: \$365,000 / 1,259 cases; \$91,200 / 315 cases
FY29: \$365,000 / 1,259 cases; \$91,200 / 315 cases
FY30: \$365,000 / 1,259 cases; \$91,200 / 315 cases
FY31: \$365,000 / 1,259 cases; \$91,200 / 315 cases

Part III: Expenditure Detail

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

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

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

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

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

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. D - FTE Detail

NONE

III. E - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

203,006.00

Form FN (Rev 1/00)

2

Request # 232-1

Bill # 1174 S HB

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

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 1174 S HB

Title: Court interpreters

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities:
- Counties:
- Special Districts:
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option:
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

None

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 02/24/2025
Leg. Committee Contact: Yvonne Walker	Phone: 360-786-7841	Date: 02/18/2025
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 02/24/2025
OFM Review: Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/25/2025

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

CHANGES BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND PRIOR VERSION OF THE BILL:

The substitute bill directs that, subject to appropriation, a person with limited English proficiency is not responsible for the cost of an interpreter in court-mandated classes, provided they meet the requirements established. This change does not create fiscal impacts for local governments beyond those discussed in the fiscal note of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL:

Sec. 2 amends RCW 2.43.020. "Credentialed interpreter" means an interpreter who is credentialed by the Administrative Office of the Courts in a spoken language.

Sec. 3 amends RCW 2.43.030. Credentialed interpreters shall be appointed in legal proceedings involving participation of persons with limited English proficiency, unless good cause is found on the record for appointing a noncredentialed interpreter.

Sec. 7 adds a new section to RCW 2.43. The court shall appoint a team of interpreters as required by Supreme Court rule.

Sec. 9 amends RCW 2.43.040. Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated, in all court-mandated classes, a person with limited English proficiency is not responsible for the cost of the interpreter if that person is: a party; subpoenaed or summoned; a parent, guardian, or custodian of a juvenile; or compelled to appear. Court-mandated classes do not require the use of court-credentialed interpreters.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The legislation would have no expenditure impacts for local government, beyond those described in the fiscal note of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Please note that court impacts, including judicial costs, clerk costs, and court fees are described in fiscal notes prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Local government fiscal notes include city and county expenditures for law enforcement investigations and arrests, indigent defenders, prosecutors, and jail costs.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The legislation would have no revenue impacts for local governments.

SOURCES:

Administrative Office of the Courts