Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	**Title:** Court unification task force

Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

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

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outloo	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Administrative Office of the Courts	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Office of Public Defense	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Office of Civil Legal Aid	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Office of the Governor	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Office of Attorney General	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Office of Administrative Hearings	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Criminal Justice Training Commission	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
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	No fiscal impact								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

FNPID: 77442

FNS029 Multi Agency rollup

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
Office of Public Defense	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Office of Civil Legal Aid	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Office of the Governor	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Office of Attorney General	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Office of Administrative Hearings	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Criminal Justice Training Commission	.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	No fiscal impact								
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

Prepared by: Gaius Horton, OFM	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date Published: Final 3/ 5/2026

Judicial Impact Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	**Title:** Court unification task force	**Agency:** 055-Administrative Office of the Courts

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Expenditures from:

NONE

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 form 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:	Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Preparation:	Chris Conn	Phone: 360-704-5512	Date: 02/26/2026
Agency Approval:	Chris Stanley	Phone: 360-357-2406	Date: 02/26/2026
OFM Review:	Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/27/2026

214,411.00

Request # 276-1

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

The proposed amendment increases the Supreme Court Justices Association (SCJA) representation. It also mandates that a person with lived experience as an incarceree be included on the task force and retains the provision sunsetting the task force on 12/31/2029.

II. B - Cash Receipts Impact

None

II. C - Expenditures

No or minimal fiscal impact to the Administrative Office of the Courts as this bill does not affect current AOC or court processes.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

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

NONE

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

NONE

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

NONE

III. D - FTE Detail

NONE

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

Identify acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and dexcribe potential financing methods

NONE

None

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number:	Title:	Agency:
1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	Court unification task force	056-Office of Public Defense

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:
NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

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 form 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.

[ ] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Preparation:	Angie Wirkkala	Phone: 360-789-5051	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Approval:	Sophia Byrd McSherry	Phone: 360-586-3164	Date: 02/25/2026
OFM Review:	Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/25/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

The Office of Public Defense anticipates no fiscal impact from the proposed amendment to 2SHB 1909.

The amendment to 2SHB 1909 establishes a Court Unification Task Force. Task Force membership includes one person representing the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD). Members are expected to participate in task force and subcommittee meetings held between October 1, 2026 and December 31, 2029. OPD will participate in the task force within existing resources.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

No impact.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

No impact.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

No impact.

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number:	Title:	Agency:
1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	Court unification task force	057-Office of Civil Legal Aid

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

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 form 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.

[ ] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Preparation:	Sara Robbins	Phone: (360) 485-1544	Date: 02/26/2026
Agency Approval:	Sara Robbins	Phone: (360) 485-1544	Date: 02/26/2026
OFM Review:	Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/27/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

No fiscal impact

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number:	Title:	Agency:
1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	Court unification task force	075-Office of the Governor

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

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 form 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.

[ ] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Preparation:	Kathy Cody	Phone: (360) 480-7237	Date: 02/26/2026
Agency Approval:	Jamie Langford	Phone: (360) 870-7766	Date: 02/26/2026
OFM Review:	Val Terre	Phone: (360) 280-3073	Date: 02/26/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Second Substitute House Bill 1909 establishes the Court Unification Task Force to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Washington's court system. The task force is charged with examining inefficiencies and inequities resulting from disparate local court rules, technology adoption, and funding levels, and identifying opportunities for more unified or centralized court operations.

The Office of the Governor may appoint one nonvoting representative from the Governor's office to the Court Unification Task Force within existing resources. The appointment can be accomplished within current resources, and therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

If the Governor appoints a representative to work on this task force, it requires adding 0.25 of a policy FTE, prorated at $45,000 per fiscal year for salaries and benefits. Per the bill, these costs will have to be absorbed by the Governor's office.

The Senate Committee amendment does not modify the Governor's role on the task force; therefore, there is no change to the Office of the Governor's prior fiscal note assumptions.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number:	Title:	Agency:
1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	Court unification task force	100-Office of Attorney General

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

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 form 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.

[ ] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Preparation:	Chad Standifer	Phone: 3605863650	Date: 02/27/2026
Agency Approval:	Thomas Deaton	Phone: 3607096473	Date: 02/27/2026
OFM Review:	Val Terre	Phone: (360) 280-3073	Date: 03/02/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

1. The AGO Solicitor General's Office (SGO) has reviewed this bill and determined it will not increase or decrease the division's workload. Therefore, no costs are included in this request.

2. The AGO Policy Division (POL) has reviewed this bill and determined it will not significantly increase or decrease the division's workload. The Court Unification Task Force is not administered by the AGO. 2SHB 1909 provides that the AGO may, within existing resources, be represented by an appointed, non-voting member, but does not require AGO participation. Therefore, costs are not included in this request.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number:	Title:	Agency:
1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	Court unification task force	110-Office of Administrative Hearings

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

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 form 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.

[ ] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Preparation:	Pete Boeckel	Phone: 360-407-2730	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Approval:	Rob Cotton	Phone: 360-407-2708	Date: 02/25/2026
OFM Review:	Val Terre	Phone: (360) 280-3073	Date: 02/26/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

No fiscal impact. This legislation will not measurably increase costs for the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). Any new work is assumed to be nominal and will be provided with existing resources.

This bill establishes a Court Unification Task Force with one OAH member. There are two task force meetings required per year. While travel is reimbursed, that is a minimal cost for OAH. No other monetary costs will impact OAH.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number:	Title:	Agency:
1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	Court unification task force	227-Criminal Justice Training Commission

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:
NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

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 form 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.

[ ] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Preparation:	Francesca Heard	Phone: 206-610-8870	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Approval:	Francesca Heard	Phone: 206-610-8870	Date: 02/25/2026
OFM Review:	Kate LaBelle	Phone: (360) 480-0270	Date: 02/25/2026

Part II: Narrative Explanation

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

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

AN ACT Relating to establishing the court unification task force; adding a new chapter to Title 2 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The court unification task force must include the following voting members:

(f) 13 members from the judicial branch, appointed by the chief justice in consultation with the board of judicial administration, supreme court, court of appeals, superior court judges' association, association of Washington superior court administrators, Washington association of juvenile court administrators, district and municipal court judges' association, district and municipal court management association, misdemeanant probation association, and access to justice board. Of the members appointed under this subsection (1)(f): (i) Three members must be appointed to represent the superior court judges association, with at least one member representing western Washington and at least one member representing eastern Washington; and (ii) two members must be appointed to represent the district and municipal court judges association, with one member representing western Washington and the other member representing eastern Washington;

(s) One person who has lived experience as a formerly incarcerated person appointed by the office of public defense.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

2S HB 1909 continues to establish the Court Unification Task Force, increasing representation from the Superior Court Judges' Association from two to three members and adding one member with lived experience as a formerly incarcerated individual, appointed by the Office of Public Defense. These revisions do not affect WSCJTC training programs or agency workload. There is no significant fiscal impact to WSCJTC.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number:	1909 2S HB AMS LAW S5527.1	**Title:**	Court unification task force

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

Legislation Impacts:

[X] Cities: Indeterminate expenditure impact resulting from staff time for local government representatives to participate in Court Unification Task Force.

[X] Counties: Same as above, but for 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:

[X] Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: Amount of staff time required for task force participation.

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

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

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Tabitha Cox	Phone: 3607255035	Date: 02/25/2026
Leg. Committee Contact: Tim Ford	Phone: 786-7423	Date: 02/25/2026
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 02/25/2026
OFM Review: Gaius Horton	Phone: (360) 819-3112	Date: 02/25/2026

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

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

This fiscal note analyzes the local government impact of 1909-S2 AMS LAW S5527.1, comparing it to the impact of 2S-HB 1909.

CHANGES BETWEEN THIS BILL VERSION AND PREVIOUS BILL VERSION:
This proposed amendment to the second substitute bill would add another judicial member to the court unification task force and specify that the member appointed by the Office of Public Defense be someone who has lived experience as a formerly incarcerated person. These changes do not affect the impacts previously identified and discussed below.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL:
The legislation creates the Court Unification Task Force.

Section 1 details the legislature's intent behind the task force.

Section 2 establishes the task force and its mission to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the current state court system, with detailed topic areas to assess like inefficiencies and inequities, technology adoption and funding levels.

Section 3 lists the required membership of the task force. Among the 36 required members, those related to local government are:
-3 people representing cities, appointed by the Association of Washington Cities. Specifically, one for a city with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants, one for a city with between 100,000 and 500,000 inhabitants, and one for a city with 500,000 or more inhabitants.
-1 person who is an elected county councilmember representing counties, appointed by the Washington State Association of Counties.
-1 person representing court clerks, appointed by the Washington State Association of County Clerks.
-13 members from the judicial branch, appointed by the Chief Justice in consultation with a variety of boards.

Additionally, Section 3 requires that task force members be reimbursed for travel expenses according to statute RCW 44.04.120, RCW 43.03.220, and chapter 43.03 RCW.

Section 4 enables the task force to form issue-specific subcommittees within its membership.

Section 5 requires the task force to hold its first meeting by October 1, 2026, to complete its work by December 31, 2029, and meet with all members at least twice annually. The task force must produce a preliminary report by June 30, 2027, and a final report by June 30, 2028 with specific proposed solutions and implementation plans.

Section 6 specifies that the legislation would expire December 31, 2029.

Section 7 specifies that sections 2 through 6 of the legislation would constitute a new chapter in Title 2 RCW.

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 proposed legislation would have an indeterminate impact on local government expenditures.

The court unification task force would require several local government representatives as members, specifically 3 city representatives and 1 elected county councilmember. The task force would also be required to include 1 representative of court clerks and 13 judicial officers, but any costs associated with the participation of these personnel would be reflected in the Administrative Office of the Courts' judicial impact note for this bill.

Local governments would incur additional costs associated with staff time to participate in the task force, including time spent at meetings, preparing for meetings, and conducting other relevant business between meetings. It is unknown, however, how much time may be necessary for task force members to complete their task force assignments between October 1, 2026 and December 31, 2029, so the expenditure impact from local government representatives participating in the task force is indeterminate.

The Local Government Fiscal Note Program assumes that members appointed by and representing non-government associations would participate in the task force on behalf of that association, not as a local government employee. For example, the bill specifies one member appointed by and representing the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA). While this member could be a county prosecuting attorney, their participation would not create costs for local government because they would be acting as a member of WAPA and not as a representative of their local government employer.

Travel expenses for task force members would be reimbursed, so any local government expenditure for representatives to travel for this task force would be offset by the state.

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 proposed legislation would have no impact on local government revenues.