

CHAPTER 259.

[H. B. 57.]

COURT ADMINISTRATOR.

AN ACT to improve the administration of justice, providing for an administrator for the courts of this state, providing for assignment of judges by the chief justice of the supreme court of this state to counties and judicial districts where needed, providing for an annual conference of judges; amending section 6, chapter 58, Laws of 1933 extraordinary session as amended by section 11, chapter 38, Laws of 1955, and RCW 2.16.060; repealing section 3, chapter 58, Laws of 1933 extraordinary session, section 8, chapter 38, Laws of 1955 and RCW 2.16.030; making an appropriation and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. There shall be a state office to be known as the office of administrator for the courts who shall be appointed by the supreme court of this state from a list of five persons submitted by the governor of the state of Washington, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. He shall be a resident of this state and have been such for at least three years prior to his appointment and not over the age of sixty years at the time of his appointment. He shall receive a salary not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars per year, to be fixed by the supreme court.

Administrator
for the
courts. Ap-
pointment—
Term—Quali-
fications—
Salary.

SEC. 2. The administrator for the courts, with the approval of the chief justice of the supreme court of this state, shall appoint and fix the compensation of such assistants as are necessary to enable him to perform the power and duties vested in him. During his term of office or employment, neither the administrator nor any assistant shall engage directly or indirectly in the practice of law in this state.

Assistants—
Compensation
—Practice of
law prohibited.

SEC. 3. The administrator for the courts shall, under the supervision and direction of [the] chief justice:

Duties.

Administrator
of the courts.
Duties.

(1) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in the offices of the judges, clerks, stenographers, and employees of the courts and make recommendations, through the chief justice, for the improvement of same;

(2) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts and determine the need for assistance by any court;

(3) Make recommendations to the chief justice relating to the assignment of judges where courts are in need of assistance and carry out the direction of the chief justice as to the assignments of judges to counties and districts where the courts are in need of assistance.

(4) Collect and compile statistical and other data and make reports of the business transacted by the courts and transmit the same to the chief justice to the end that proper action may be taken in respect thereto;

(5) Prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system and make recommendations in respect thereto;

(6) Collect statistical and other data and make reports relating to the expenditure of public moneys, state and local, for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system and the offices connected therewith;

(7) Obtain reports from clerks of courts in accordance with law or rules adopted by the supreme court of this state on cases and other judicial business in which action has been delayed beyond periods of time specified by law or rules of court and make report thereof to supreme court of this state;

(8) Act as secretary of the judicial conference referred to in section 6 of this act.

(9) Formulate and submit to the judicial council of this state recommendations of policies for the improvement of the judicial system; and Duties.

(10) Submit annually, as of February 1, to the chief justice and the judicial council, a report of the activities of the administrator's office for the preceding calendar year;

(11) Attend to such other matters as may be assigned by the supreme court of this state.

SEC. 4. The chief justice shall consider all recommendations of the administrator for the assignment of judges, and, in his discretion, direct any judge whose calendar, in the judgment of the chief justice, will permit, to hold court in any county or district where need therefor exists, to the end that the courts of this state shall function with maximum efficiency, and that the work of other courts shall be equitably distributed. It shall be the duty of every judge to obey such direction of the chief justice unless excused by him for sufficient cause. No salary warrant shall be issued pursuant to RCW 2.08.100 until the judge who is to receive the same shall have made an affidavit, in the manner provided by law, that he has fully complied with the provisions of sections 4 and 5 of this act. Said affidavit may be made a part of the affidavit required by RCW 2.08.100.

Chief justice to act on recommendations of administrator—Cooperation of other judges required.

SEC. 5. The judges and clerks of the courts and all other officers, state and local, shall comply with all requests made by the administrator, after approval by the chief justice, for information and statistical data bearing on the state of the dockets of such courts and such other information as may reflect the business transacted by them and the expenditure of public moneys for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system.

Cooperation of state and local officers, judges and clerks required.

SEC. 6. The supreme court of this state may provide by rule or special order for the holding in this state of an annual conference of the judges of the

Annual judicial conference—Reimbursement.

Administrator of the courts. Annual judicial conference—Reimbursement.

courts of record of this state, and of invited members of the bar, for the consideration of matters relating to judicial business, the improvement of the judicial system and the administration of justice. Each judge attending such annual judicial conference shall be entitled to be reimbursed for his necessary expenses to be paid from state appropriations made for the purposes of this act.

Traveling and living expenses allowed.

SEC. 7. For attendance while holding court in another county or district pursuant to the direction of the chief justice, a judge shall be entitled to receive from the county to which he is sent the amount of his actual traveling and living expenses.

Courts under scope of act.

SEC. 8. This act shall apply to the following courts: the supreme court, the superior courts, and, when and to the extent so ordered by the supreme court, to the inferior courts of this state, including justice courts.

Procedure for disbursement of moneys.

SEC. 9. Any moneys appropriated for the purposes of this act shall be disbursed, upon order of the chief justice, on warrants drawn by the state auditor on the general fund.

RCW 2.16.060 amended.

SEC. 10. Section 6, chapter 58, Laws of 1933 extraordinary session, as amended by section 11, chapter 38, Laws of 1955, and RCW 2.16.060 are each amended to read as follows:

Expense of attendance and as visiting judge.

(1) For attendance upon any annual meeting a judge shall be entitled to receive from the state the amount of his actual traveling and living expenses.

(2) Upon presenting to the state auditor a statement signed by himself and approved by the president judge, showing in separate items his traveling and living expenses for attendance upon the annual meeting, the state auditor shall draw a warrant on the general fund for the amount of such statement and deliver it to such judge.

SEC. 11. To carry out the provisions of this act there is appropriated from the general fund, the sum of sixty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary. Appropriation.

SEC. 12. Section 3, chapter 58, Laws of 1933 extraordinary session, section 8, chapter 38, Laws of 1955, and RCW 2.16.030 are each repealed. Repeal.

SEC. 13. Emergency clause. This act is necessary for the immediate support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately. } Vetced.

Passed the House March 7, 1957.

Passed the Senate March 6, 1957.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1957, with the exception of section 13, which is vetoed.

Note: Excerpt of Governor's veto message reads as follows:

"This bill is approved with the exception of section 13 which is vetoed. Section 13 is an emergency clause. It will take some time to give proper and careful consideration to the list of persons to be submitted by me to the chief justice of the supreme court for appointment as court administrator. For this reason I deem is advisable to veto section 13. The remainder of the bill is approved."

Veto message, excerpt from.