

CHAPTER 187

[House Bill No. 864]

COURT CONGESTION TASK FORCE

AN ACT Relating to a state task force on court congestion; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. The state task force on court congestion is hereby established. The task force shall consist of the following eleven persons appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court: Four judges (one from each judicial level), two members of the legislature, three attorneys at least two whose primary area of legal practice is trial work, a local elected official, and the administrator for the courts. Members of the task force shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. Legislative members shall be reimbursed as provided in RCW 44.04.120 as now existing or hereafter amended. The administrator for the courts shall provide staff support to the task force.

The task force shall make recommendations for the alleviation of congestion in the trial and appellate courts of the state and shall study and make recommendations concerning the means of providing adequate funding for the courts of the state. The task force shall consult with all levels of the state judiciary, the state legislature, the legislative authorities of the counties, prosecutors, municipal attorneys, the state bar, and the public. The report of the task force shall be completed by January 1, 1983, and submitted to the governor, the chief justice, the senate committee on judiciary, and the house of representatives committee on ethics, law and justice.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House March 10, 1982.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1982.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 1982.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 1, 1982.

CHAPTER 188

[Substitute House Bill No. 887]

CIVIL ACTIONS—MANDATORY ARBITRATION

AN ACT Relating to mandatory arbitration of civil actions; amending section 2, chapter 103, Laws of 1979 and RCW 7.06.020; and amending section 5, chapter 103, Laws of 1979 and RCW 7.06.050.

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

Section 1. Section 2, chapter 103, Laws of 1979 and RCW 7.06.020 are each amended to read as follows:

All civil actions, except for appeals from municipal or justice courts, which are at issue in the superior court in counties which have authorized arbitration, where the sole relief sought is a money judgment, and where no party asserts a claim in excess of ten thousand dollars, or if approved by the superior court of a county by majority vote of the judges thereof, fifteen thousand dollars, exclusive of interest and costs, are subject to mandatory arbitration.

Sec. 2. Section 5, chapter 103, Laws of 1979 and RCW 7.06.050 are each amended to read as follows:

Following a hearing as prescribed by court rule, the arbitrator shall file his decision and award with the clerk of the superior court, together with proof of service thereof on the parties. Within twenty days after such filing, any aggrieved party may file with the clerk a written notice of appeal and request for a trial de novo in the superior court on all issues of law and fact. Such trial de novo shall thereupon be held, including a right to jury, if demanded.

If no appeal has been filed at the expiration of twenty days following filing of the arbitrator's decision and award, ~~((the clerk shall enter the arbitrator's decision and award as a final judgment in the cause, which))~~ a judgment shall be entered and may be presented to the court by any party, on notice, which judgment when entered shall have the same force and effect as judgments in civil actions.

Passed the House February 18, 1982.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1982.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 1982.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 1, 1982.

CHAPTER 189

[House Bill No. 907]

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS—APPROPRIATION

AN ACT Relating to the office of administrative hearings; amending section 2, chapter 67, Laws of 1981 and RCW 34.12.020; amending section 6, chapter 67, Laws of 1981 and RCW 34.12.060; amending section 36, chapter 121, Laws of 1965 ex. sess. as last amended by section 28, chapter 67, Laws of 1981 and RCW 46.20.329; amending section 3, chapter 75, Laws of 1965 ex. sess. as last amended by section 29, chapter 67, Laws of 1981 and RCW 47.52.135; reenacting and amending section 69.50.505, chapter 308, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. as last amended by section 3, chapter 48, Laws of 1981 and by section 32, chapter 67, Laws of 1981 and RCW 69.50.505; amending section 5, chapter 141, Laws of 1967 as last amended by section 239, chapter 141, Laws of 1979 and RCW 72-.33.670; amending section 25, chapter 183, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. as amended by section 12, chapter 171, Laws of 1979 ex. sess. and RCW 74.20A.055; adding new sections to chapter 34.12 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.20 RCW; making an appropriation; and providing an effective date.