

THIRD DAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

2019 REGULAR SESSION

THIRD DAY**MORNING SESSION**Senate Chamber, Olympia
Wednesday, January 16, 2019

The Senate was called to order at 10:56 a.m. by the President of the Senate, Lt. Governor Habib presiding. No roll call was taken.

MOTION

On motion of Senator Liias, the reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed with and it was approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The President announced the appointment of Senator Pedersen to the Committee on Rules.

MOTIONS

On motion of Senator Liias, the appointment of Senator Pedersen to the Committee on Rules was confirmed without objection.

On motion of Senator Liias, the Senate advanced to the third order of business.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE**CERTIFICATION OF INITIATIVE TO THE LEGISLATURE
NO. 976**

Pursuant to Article II, Section 1 of the Washington State Constitution, RCW 29A.72.230, and WAC 434-379-010, the Office of the Secretary of State has caused the signatures submitted in support of Initiative to the Legislature No. 976 to be examined in the following manner:

1. It was determined that 352,093 signatures were submitted by the sponsors of the initiative. A random sample of 10,598 signatures was taken from those submitted;

2. Each sampled signature was examined to determine if the signer was a registered voter of the state, if the signature was reasonably similar to the one appearing on the record of that voter, and if the same signature appeared more than once in the sample. We found 9,128 valid signatures, 1,451 signatures that were invalid and 19 pairs of duplicated signatures in the sample;

3. We calculated an allowance for the chance error of sampling (57) by multiplying the square root of the number of invalid signatures by 1.5;

4. We estimated the upper limit of the number of signatures on the initiative petition which were invalid (50,104) by dividing the sum of the number of invalid signatures in the sample and allowance for the chance of error of sampling by the sampling ratio;

5. We determined the maximum allowable number of duplicate pairs of signatures on the petition (42,367) by subtracting the sum of the number of signatures required by Article II, Section 1 of the Washington State Constitution (259,622) and the estimate of the upper limit of the number of invalid signatures on the petition from the number of signatures submitted;

6. We determined the expected number of duplicate pairs of signatures in the sample (38) by multiplying the square of the sampling ratio by the maximum allowable number of pairs of signatures on the initiative petition;

7. We determined the acceptable number of duplicate pairs of signatures in the sample (28) by subtracting 1.65 times the square root of the expected number of pairs of signatures in the sample from the expected number of pairs of signatures in the sample; and

8. The number of duplicate pairs of signatures in the sample is less than the acceptable number of duplicate pairs of signatures in the sample.

Therefore, I hereby declare Initiative to the Legislature No. 976 to contain sufficient signatures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Washington this 15th day of January, 2019.

(Seal)

Kim Wyman
Secretary of State

/s/

MARK NEARY, Assistant Secretary of State

MOTION

On motion of Senator Liias, the Senate advanced to the fifth order of business.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**SB 5201** by Senators Palumbo and Rivers

AN ACT Relating to authorizing marijuana retailers to sell certain products and merchandise; amending RCW 69.50.342, 69.50.345, and 66.04.010; and reenacting and amending RCW 69.50.357 and 69.50.101.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5202 by Senators Palumbo and Rivers

AN ACT Relating to the ability of business and nonprofit entities to obtain a marijuana license; and amending RCW 69.50.331.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5203 by Senators Palumbo, Wagoner, Nguyen, Mullet, Carlyle and Hunt

AN ACT Relating to increasing opportunities for apprenticeships for inmates; adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

SB 5204 by Senators Palumbo, Wilson, L. and Kuderer

AN ACT Relating to preventing breed-based dog regulations; amending RCW 16.08.080 and 16.08.100;

adding a new section to chapter 16.08 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5205 by Senators Dhingra, King, Frockt, Zeiger, Pedersen, Das, Rolfes, Palumbo, Kuderer, Keiser and Wellman
AN ACT Relating to provisions governing firearms possession by persons who have been found incompetent to stand trial and who have a history of one or more violent acts; amending RCW 10.77.088, 9.41.040, and 9.41.047; and prescribing penalties.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 5206 by Senators Dhingra, Rivers, Wellman, Salomon, Keiser, Nguyen, Das, Randall, Palumbo, Carlyle, Wilson and C.

AN ACT Relating to providing a sales and use tax exemption for certain feminine hygiene products; adding a new section to chapter 82.08 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5207 by Senators Dhingra, Hunt, Saldaña, Darneille, Das, Cleveland, Kuderer, Pedersen, Salomon and Nguyen
AN ACT Relating to notification of felony voting rights and restoration; and adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5208 by Senators Palumbo, Wilson, L., Mullet, Wilson, C., Carlyle, Cleveland, Kuderer, Zeiger and Liias
AN ACT Relating to emergency medical services for animals; amending RCW 18.92.060; adding a new section to chapter 18.73 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5209 by Senators Palumbo, Rolfes, Hunt and Liias
AN ACT Relating to retail pet stores; adding a new section to chapter 16.52 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5210 by Senators Palumbo, Bailey, Rolfes, Wilson, C., Randall and Hunt

AN ACT Relating to notification to purchasers of hearing instruments about uses and benefits of telecoil and bluetooth technology; adding a new section to chapter 18.35 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5211 by Senators Palumbo, Rolfes, Hunt and Zeiger
AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the use of live animals to practice invasive medical procedures in paramedic training programs; amending RCW 16.52.180; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5212 by Senators Palumbo, Wilson, L., Rolfes, Mullet, Wilson, C., Hunt and Kuderer

AN ACT Relating to adoption of dogs and cats used for science or research purposes; and adding a new section to chapter 16.52 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 5213 by Senator Hobbs

AN ACT Relating to transportation funding and appropriations; amending 2018 c 297 ss 201, 202, 204, 207-213, 215-221, 223, 301, 303-311, 401-406, and 701 (uncodified); adding a new section to 2018 c 297 (uncodified); making appropriations and authorizing expenditures for capital improvements; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5214 by Senator Hobbs

AN ACT Relating to transportation funding and appropriations; amending RCW 43.19.642, 46.20.745, 46.68.060, 46.68.280, 46.68.325, 47.56.403, 47.56.876, 81.53.281, 47.10.861, and 46.68.370; creating new sections; making appropriations and authorizing expenditures for capital improvements; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5215 by Senators O'Ban, Rivers, Becker, Braun, Padden, Holy, Zeiger, Wilson, L., Brown, Schoesler, Warnick and Short

AN ACT Relating to encouraging economic growth by providing a state business tax credit for new employment positions; adding a new section to chapter 82.04 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade.

SB 5216 by Senators O'Ban and Frockt

AN ACT Relating to multistage threat assessments to increase safety in K-12 schools and institutions of higher education; amending RCW 28A.600.022; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 5217 by Senators Keiser, Conway, Kuderer, Frockt and Saldaña

AN ACT Relating to industrial insurance wage loss; amending RCW 51.08.178, 51.08.030, 51.32.010, 51.32.025, 51.32.060, 51.32.072, and 51.32.090; adding new sections to chapter 51.08 RCW; and adding new sections to chapter 51.32 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5218 by Senators Zeiger and Takko

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AN ACT Relating to mobile food units; amending RCW 43.20.025 and 43.20.148; and adding a new section to chapter 43.20 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

SB 5219 by Senators Padden, Pedersen, Becker, Palumbo, Zeiger, Van De Wege, Holy, Dhingra, Braun, Schoesler, Warnick, Ericksen, Honeyford, Bailey, Brown, Short, Sheldon, Fortunato and O'Ban

AN ACT Relating to condominium construction warranties; and amending RCW 64.90.665, 64.90.670, 64.90.675, and 64.90.680.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 5220 by Senators O'Ban, Palumbo, Conway, Becker and Zeiger

AN ACT Relating to the election and authority of regional transit authority board members; amending RCW 81.112.010 and 81.112.030; adding a new section to chapter 81.112 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW 81.112.040; and providing a contingent effective date.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5221 by Senators Palumbo, Rivers, Billig and Wellman

AN ACT Relating to disclosure of contributions from political committees to other political committees; amending RCW 42.17A.320; adding a new section to chapter 42.17A RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5222 by Senator Hasegawa

AN ACT Relating to health care financing and development of the whole Washington health trust to ensure all Washington residents can enroll in nonprofit health insurance coverage providing an essential set of health benefits; adding new sections to chapter 82.02 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.32 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 82.04 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 82 RCW; adding a new title to the Revised Code of Washington to be codified as Title 50B RCW; prescribing penalties; providing effective dates; providing a contingent effective date; and providing contingent expiration dates.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5223 by Senators Palumbo, Rivers, Rolfes, King, Carlyle, Mullet, McCoy, Wellman, Das, Nguyen, Randall, Frockt, Salomon, Keiser, Wilson, C., Kuderer, Darneille, Cleveland, Saldaña, Dhingra, Pedersen, Conway and Van De Wege

AN ACT Relating to net metering; amending RCW 80.60.020, 80.60.030, and 82.16.090; adding a new section to chapter 19.27 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

SB 5224 by Senators Kuderer, Hunt, Takko, Keiser, Nguyen, Darneille, Das, Wellman, Saldaña and McCoy

AN ACT Relating to advisory votes; amending RCW 29A.32.031, 29A.32.070, 29A.64.090, 29A.72.040, 29A.72.250, and 29A.72.290; and repealing RCW 29A.72.283, 29A.72.285, and 43.135.041.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5225 by Senators Takko and Short

AN ACT Relating to clarifying the contracting procedures for cities; and amending RCW 35.23.352.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5226 by Senator Kuderer

AN ACT Relating to the off-duty conduct of an employee or a prospective employee; and adding a new section to chapter 49.60 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 5227 by Senators Kuderer, Hunt, Takko and Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to deadlines for receipt of voter registrations by election officials; amending RCW 29A.08.020, 29A.08.140, 29A.08.330, and 29A.08.359; reenacting and amending RCW 29A.08.110 and 29A.08.410; and adding a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5228 by Senator Takko

AN ACT Relating to the authorization to impose special excise taxes on the sale of lodging; amending RCW 67.28.181 and 82.14.410; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5229 by Senators Zeiger and Hunt

AN ACT Relating to the presidential primary; amending RCW 29A.56.020, 29A.56.030, 29A.56.040, 29A.56.050, 29A.60.190, 29A.08.161, and 29A.04.206; and decodifying RCW 29A.56.010.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5230 by Senators Wilson, C., Wilson and L.

AN ACT Relating to amending motor vehicle laws to align with federal definitions, make technical corrections, and move an effective date to meet a federal timeline; amending RCW 46.16A.010, 46.25.010, 46.17.350, 46.18.210, 46.55.065, and 46.76.040; amending 2018 c 49 s 5 (uncodified); reenacting and amending RCW 46.25.010; providing effective dates; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5231 by Senators Bailey, Wagoner, Becker, Zeiger, Honeyford, Padden and Short

AN ACT Relating to veteran survivor tuition waiver eligibility; and amending RCW 28B.15.621.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 5232 by Senators Bailey, Wagoner, Zeiger, Becker and Honeyford

AN ACT Relating to the qualifications of a legal newspaper; and amending RCW 65.16.020.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 5233 by Senator Keiser

AN ACT Relating to creating an alternative process for sick leave benefits for workers represented by collective bargaining agreements; adding a new section to chapter 49.46 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5234 by Senators Keiser and Palumbo

AN ACT Relating to modifying the excise tax for medical marijuana patients with recognition cards for products identified as beneficial for medical use; amending RCW 69.50.535; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5235 by Senators Keiser, King, Saldaña, Conway and Hasegawa

AN ACT Relating to plumbing; amending RCW 18.106.010, 18.106.020, 18.106.030, 18.106.040, 18.106.050, 18.106.070, 18.106.100, 18.106.110, 18.106.125, 18.106.150, 18.106.180, 18.106.200, 18.106.220, 18.106.250, 18.106.270, 18.106.320, 18.27.060, and 19.28.041; reenacting and amending RCW 19.28.091; adding new sections to chapter 18.106 RCW; prescribing penalties; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5236 by Senators Keiser, Conway, Wellman, Braun, Saldaña, Hasegawa, Wilson, C., Kuderer and Takko

AN ACT Relating to encouraging apprenticeships; amending RCW 28B.77.230; adding a new section to chapter 49.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5237 by Senators Carlyle, Hunt, Saldaña and Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to the creation of a work group to study and make recommendations on a statue to replace Marcus Whitman; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5238 by Senators Carlyle, Randall, Wilson and C.

AN ACT Relating to concussions and head injuries in all participants of youth sports; amending RCW 28A.600.190; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 5239 by Senators Carlyle, Pedersen, Palumbo and Mullet
AN ACT Relating to commercial transportation services freight deliverers; and amending RCW 48.177.005.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5240 by Senators Carlyle and Braun

AN ACT Relating to investing the assets of the first-class cities' retirement systems; amending RCW 43.33A.020, 43.33A.150, 35.39.060, 35.39.070, 35.39.080, 35.39.090, 41.28.080, and 41.28.085; adding a new section to chapter 43.33A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.39 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 5241 by Senators Short, Takko, Brown and Mullet

AN ACT Relating to expanding the operable intent of RCW 34.05.271 and 34.05.272 to certain activities of natural resources agencies; adding new sections to chapter 34.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

SB 5242 by Senator Short

AN ACT Relating to the economic development of rural counties; amending RCW 36.70A.040; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5243 by Senator Short

AN ACT Relating to standing before the growth management hearings board; amending RCW 36.70A.280 and 36.70A.280; creating a new section; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5244 by Senators Short, Dhingra, Wilson and L.

AN ACT Relating to creating a domestic violence offender registry; amending RCW 4.24.130; adding new sections to chapter 10.99 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.43 RCW; and creating new sections.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 5245 by Senator Short

AN ACT Relating to clarifying what science may be used by cities and counties to designate critical areas; and amending RCW 36.70A.172.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5246 by Senators Hunt and Zeiger

AN ACT Relating to sunshine committee recommendations; amending RCW 42.56.230 and 42.56.250; reenacting and amending RCW 42.56.270; adding a new section to chapter 42.56 RCW; and repealing RCW 39.26.030 and 42.56.340.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

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SB 5247 by Senators Frockt, Zeiger, Hobbs, Bailey, Rolfes and Hunt

AN ACT Relating to addressing catastrophic incidents that are natural or human-caused emergencies by providing guidance that may be used by state public schools to plan for seismic catastrophic incidents; amending RCW 38.52.010 and 38.52.030; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5248 by Senators Dhingra, Padden, Kuderer, Palumbo, Wilson, L. and Holy

AN ACT Relating to changing the definition of theft; and amending RCW 9A.56.020.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 5249 by Senator Hunt

AN ACT Relating to eliminating certain requirements for the annexation of an unincorporated island of territory; and amending RCW 35A.14.295, 35A.14.297, 35A.14.299, and 36.93.105.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5250 by Senators Mullet and Palumbo

AN ACT Relating to permanent daylight saving time in Washington state; amending RCW 1.20.051; providing a contingent effective date; and providing for submission of this act to a vote of the people.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5251 by Senators Mullet, Rivers and Palumbo

AN ACT Relating to prescription drug cost transparency; reenacting and amending RCW 74.09.215; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5252 by Senators Mullet, Wellman and Palumbo

AN ACT Relating to school district elections; amending RCW 28A.535.020, 28A.535.030, 28A.535.050, 84.52.056, and 39.36.020; and providing a contingent effective date.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 5253 by Senator Sheldon

AN ACT Relating to the use of "van accessible" parking spots; and amending RCW 46.19.030 and 46.19.050.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5254 by Senators Sheldon and Conway

AN ACT Relating to modifying the operation of motorcycles on roadways laned for traffic; amending RCW 46.61.608 and 47.52.025; prescribing penalties; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5255 by Senators Sheldon and Honeyford

AN ACT Relating to prohibiting road usage charges in rural counties; and adding a new section to chapter 46.08 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5256 by Senators Keiser, Saldaña and Randall

AN ACT Relating to the use of the term birth center; amending RCW 18.46.010; adding a new section to chapter 18.46 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5257 by Senators Keiser, Cleveland, Dhingra, Randall, Kuderer and Darneille

AN ACT Relating to restricting the practice of female genital mutilation; amending RCW 18.130.020; and reenacting and amending RCW 18.130.180.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5258 by Senators Keiser, Wellman, Saldaña, Randall, Das, Dhingra, Cleveland, Conway, Wilson, C., Darneille, Kuderer, Takko and Salomon

AN ACT Relating to preventing the sexual harassment and sexual assault of certain isolated workers; adding a new section to chapter 49.60 RCW; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 5259 by Senators Zeiger, Warnick, Van De Wege, Fortunato and Takko

AN ACT Relating to encouraging the success of agriculture on agricultural land; and amending RCW 36.70A.020, 36.70A.177, 36.70A.190, 36.70A.710, and 36.70A.740.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5260 by Senators Zeiger, Hunt, Hobbs, Takko and Bailey

AN ACT Relating to powers to waive statutory obligations or limitations during a state of emergency in order to cope with the emergency; amending RCW 43.06.220; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5261 by Senators Zeiger, Kuderer, Das, Warnick and Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot program for certain cities to hire homeless persons for local beautification projects; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Housing Stability & Affordability.

SB 5262 by Senators Zeiger and Wellman

AN ACT Relating to special education; amending RCW 28A.155.090; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 5263 by Senator Zeiger

AN ACT Relating to school bus driver requirements; and amending RCW 28A.160.210.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5264 by Senators Zeiger, Wellman and Honeyford

AN ACT Relating to state funding for school construction, modernization, and asset preservation; and amending RCW 43.135.045.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 5265 by Senators Zeiger, Hunt, Bailey and Hawkins

AN ACT Relating to encouraging the role of volunteerism within state government; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5266 by Senators Saldaña, Hunt, Hasegawa, McCoy and Keiser

AN ACT Relating to ensuring timely elections for governing body members in jurisdictions modifying districting plans under the Washington voting rights act; amending RCW 29A.92.050, 29A.92.110, 28A.343.670, 35.22.370, 35.23.051, 35.23.850, 35A.12.180, 52.14.013, and 53.16.015; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5267 by Senators Saldaña, Darneille, Kuderer and O'Ban

AN ACT Relating to exempting certain marine cargo from vehicle registrations; and amending RCW 46.16A.080.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 5268 by Senator Hunt

AN ACT Relating to the salaries of county sheriffs; and amending RCW 36.17.020.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5269 by Senators Hunt, Darneille, Carlyle, McCoy, Hasegawa and Saldaña

AN ACT Relating to statewide school district reorganization; adding a new section to chapter 28A.345 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.315 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.28 RCW; and providing a contingent expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 5270 by Senators Hunt, Kuderer, Wellman, Cleveland, Saldaña, Lias and McCoy

AN ACT Relating to dates and timelines associated with the operation of the state primary and elections; amending RCW 29A.04.311, 29A.04.321, 29A.04.330, 29A.24.050, 29A.24.181, 29A.28.041, 29A.60.190, and 29A.60.240; reenacting and amending RCW 29A.16.040 and 42.17A.560; and repealing RCW 29A.24.072.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5271 by Senator Hunt

AN ACT Relating to disclosing personal wireless service charges or fees; amending RCW 80.36.530 and 80.36.510; and adding a new section to chapter 80.36 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

SB 5272 by Senator Hunt

AN ACT Relating to increasing the maximum tax rate for the voter-approved local sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities; and amending RCW 82.14.420.

Referred to Committee on Local Government.

SB 5273 by Senators Hunt, Kuderer, Wellman, Cleveland, McCoy, Dhingra, Saldaña, Billig, Mullet and Lias

AN ACT Relating to the presidential primary; amending RCW 29A.56.020, 29A.56.040, 29A.56.050, 29A.60.190, 29A.08.161, and 29A.04.206; adding a new section to chapter 29A.56 RCW; decodifying RCW 29A.56.010; and repealing RCW 29A.56.030.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5274 by Senators Hasegawa, Hunt, Wilson, C., Billig and Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to dental coverage for Pacific islanders residing in Washington; amending RCW 43.71A.010 and 43.71A.800; adding a new section to chapter 43.71A RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5275 by Senators Hunt, Randall, Wilson, C. and Conway

AN ACT Relating to adding a nonvoting representative from the office of the insurance commissioner to the public employees' benefits board; amending RCW 41.05.055; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 5276 by Senator Ericksen

AN ACT Relating to authorizing hemp production in conformance with the agriculture improvement act of 2018; amending RCW 15.120.005, 15.120.010, 15.120.020, and 15.120.030; reenacting and amending RCW 69.50.101; and repealing RCW 15.120.035, 15.120.040, 15.120.050, and 15.120.060.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

SB 5277 by Senators Warnick, Takko, Wagoner, Hunt, King, Van De Wege, Zeiger, Braun, Schoesler and Honeyford

AN ACT Relating to ensuring the funding of agricultural fairs; amending RCW 15.76.115; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 5278 by Senators Mullet, Wilson and L.

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AN ACT Relating to reporting suspected fraud and theft of payment cards; and adding a new chapter to Title 19 RCW.

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade.

SJM 8005 by Senators Short, Van De Wege, Warnick, Palumbo, Brown, McCoy, Braun, Liias, Schoesler, Hunt, Wilson, C., Wilson and L.

Supporting the continued research, development, production, and application of biochar from our forests and agricultural lands.

SB 5279 by Senators Van De Wege and Warnick
AN ACT Relating to regulating outdoor burning for the protection of life or property and for public health, safety, and welfare; and amending RCW 70.94.6514, 70.94.6534, 70.94.6524, 70.94.6536, 70.94.6538, and 70.94.6548.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

SJR 8202 by Senators Mullet, Wellman and Palumbo
Amending the Constitution to allow at least fifty-five percent of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.

SB 5280 by Senator McCoy
AN ACT Relating to community solar gardens; and adding a new chapter to Title 80 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

MOTION

SB 5281 by Senators Liias, Bailey, Hobbs, Wagoner, McCoy, Kuderer, Palumbo, Warnick and Salomon
AN ACT Relating to calculating the benchmark rate for certain community residential services; adding a new section to chapter 71A.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

On motion of Senator Liias, all measures listed on the Introduction and First Reading report were referred to the committees as designated with the exceptions of Senate Bill No. 5226 which had been designated to the Committee on Labor & Commerce and was referred to the Committee on Law & Justice; Senate Bill No. 5239 which had been designated to the Committee on Transportation and was referred to the Committee on Labor & Commerce; Senate Bill No. 5241 which had been designated to the Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections and was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks; and Senate Bill No. 5279 which had been designated to the Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology and was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

SB 5282 by Senators Liias, Cleveland, Darneille, Short, Kuderer, Walsh, Brown, Randall, Dhingra and Rolfes
AN ACT Relating to informed consent for pelvic exams; reenacting and amending RCW 18.130.180; adding a new section to chapter 18.130 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

Senator Sheldon: "Thank you Mr. President. I just want to make a personal observation. I attended the joint session yesterday and it was the first one that, I know that you were not there but listened in, it was the first joint session that I had attended – and it's a very formal formal event – that the consular corps was not introduced individually. I think there's about thirty individuals that come from Seattle all down the West Coast, San Francisco. And every time I've attended they've been introduced individually and it's difficult often to pronounce those names and it's fun to watch the presiding officer handle that with a lot of practice but that was omitted.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

SB 5283 by Senators Liias, Kuderer, Wellman, Dhingra, Billig, Randall, Das, Saldaña, McCoy and Palumbo
AN ACT Relating to allowing persons who will turn eighteen years of age by the general election to vote in the primary election; and amending RCW 29A.08.210, 29A.08.230, 29A.08.330, and 29A.08.810.

My other observation was that there was a considerable number of elected officials in the gallery. I saw Mayor Durkin there. I saw former Secretary of State Ralph Munro, five term Secretary of State here in our state, that was not introduced as well. I saw tribal officials – usually the tribal officials are introduced and stand and we get to show our appreciation for their attendance. And I thought that was missing from the ceremony yesterday and, of course, there's Sheldon complaining about something again. But I think it's important to keep that tradition. And, just the last thing I would note, small thing. There was empty chairs on the rostrum. I think, if we had another ceremony, if there were chairs, if for, if they were going to remain empty, I would remove them. And those are just personal observations and hopefully constructive ones. Thank you Mr. President."

Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

SB 5284 by Senators Liias, Wagoner and Van De Wege
AN ACT Relating to smoke detection devices; amending RCW 43.44.110 and 64.06.020; adding a new section to chapter 43.44 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.19 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade.

SJM 8004 by Senators O'Ban, Rivers, Fortunato, Braun, Warnick, Becker, Honeyford, Bailey, Wagoner and Brown
Applying to Congress for a convention to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution related to a balanced federal budget.

POINT OF INQUIRY

Senator Liias: “I wondered, Mr. President, if Senator Sheldon would yield to a question?”

President Habib: “Ordinarily, Senator Liias, it would be out of order, we are waiting for joint session. I’m going to allow us to proceed but let’s prepare for our guests that are here, some very special guests, and we can continue this later but let’s do one quest... Senator Sheldon do you stand for a question?”

Senator Sheldon: “Sure.”

Senator Liias: “Thank you, Mr. President. I was just reminded of Senator Sheldon's point of personal privilege last year about the capitol dome and I wondered if you've noticed that it's a little bit cleaner the session?”

Senator Sheldon: “Thank you for the question Senator Liias. The dome is shining and bright and we are very happy about that. The appropriation was for the cleaning of the dome, the contractor did a wonderful job. It was also for repair of leaks and, as I understand it, the leaks were not repaired yet. So the Enterprise Services is going to come by our office and give us a report on that. And thank you for asking but I think everybody appreciates the appearance today. Thank you.”

JOINT SESSION

The Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Andrew Staubitz, announced the presence of the House of Representatives at the Chamber door.

The President called upon the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms of the House to escort members of the House of Representatives to seats within the Chamber.

Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8401, the President called the Joint Session to order. The Secretary called the roll of the members of the House of Representatives. The Secretary called the roll of the members of the Senate. The President declared that a quorum of the Legislature was present.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The President of the Senate appointed a committee of honor consisting of Senators Wellman and Darneille and Representatives Shewmake and Boehnke to escort the Justices of the Supreme Court to the Chamber.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The President of the Senate appointed a committee of honor consisting of Senators Rolfes and Becker and Representatives Leavitt and Ybarra to escort the statewide elected officials to the Chamber.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The President of the Senate appointed a committee of honor consisting of Senators Pedersen and Kuderer and Representatives Thai and Corry to escort the Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst to the Chamber.

Sergeant At Arms Andy Staubitz announced the arrival of the Justices of the Supreme Court. The committee of honor escorted the Justices to seats at the front of the Chamber and they were introduced: Associate Chief Justice Charles W. Johnson,

Justice Barbara Madsen, Justice Susan Owens, Justice Debra L. Stephens, Justice Charles K. Wiggins, Justice Steven Gonzalez, Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, and Justice Mary Yu.

Sergeant At Arms Andy Staubitz announced the arrival of the statewide elected officials. The committee of honor escorted the statewide elected officials to seats at the front of the Chamber and they were introduced: Secretary of State Kim Wyman, Treasurer Duane Davidson, and Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz.

Sergeant At Arms Andy Staubitz announced the arrival of the Honorable Mary Fairhurst, Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court. The committee of honor escorted Chief Justice Fairhurst to the rostrum and was introduced.

The Washington State Patrol Honor Guard, consisting of: Corporal Morhous; Trooper Maguire, Trooper Chase, Trooper Delano, Trooper Howes, and Trooper Axtman, presented the Colors. The President led the Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance. The prayer was offered by Mr. Prassana Padmanabhan. Mr. Padmanabhan was a guest of Senator Dhingra.

Mr. Padmanabhan (chanting):

*“Om asato mā sad gamaya,
tamaso mā jyotir gamaya,
mrtyor mā amṛtaṁ gamaya,
Om shanti~ shanti~ shanti hi~~*

Namaste. This is a mantra of peace from the ancient Sanskrit Upanisad. It means, ‘From ignorance, lead me to truth; from darkness, lead me to light; from death, lead me to eternal life; may there be peace, peace, peace.’ God bless.”

The President welcomed and introduced Chief Justice Fairhurst.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst: “Thank you President Habib, Speaker Chopp, Governor Inslee, members of the Washington State Legislature, judges, elected officials and residents of Washington.

Today, we renew the tradition of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court every other year delivering a State of the Judiciary address to a joint session of the Washington State Legislature.

Thank you for reestablishing this tradition so that I may present this report to you, our lawmakers and executive and the people of the state of Washington, so you can gauge the health of the judicial branch, one of the three key components of our government.

I am very pleased to report that Washington’s judicial branch is strong, managing hundreds of thousands of cases every year – cases impacting the lives of all the people of Washington.

In addition to our casework, judges, judicial branch staff and justice partners devote significant time and energy to improving the justice system so that it can continue to deliver justice. Later, I will detail the challenges before us as well as some recent innovations to meet those challenges.

Before I do, I want to thank you again for opening your doors and the lines of communications between our respective branches. Right now, our nation needs to see that their government leaders – those in the legislative, the executive and the judicial branches – are working together.

Genuine partnership, good will and civility are not only possible – they are essential.

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Your invitation marks the beginning of a renewed partnership, founded on principles of comity and respect for our shared values and goals.

Each year brings new challenges – and continued challenges – that need to be addressed. We can meet these challenges, knowing that the legislative, executive and judicial branches are each responsible in different ways for promoting and upholding the rule of law.

The rule of law is comprised of four principles: A system of self-government in which all persons, including the government, are accountable under the law; a system based on fair, publicized, broadly understood and stable laws; a legal process that is fair, robust and accessible, in which rights and responsibilities based in law are evenly enforced; and a judiciary that is diverse, competent and independent.

The rule of law by itself is not moral or ethical. It is we – the makers, enforcers and guardians of the law – who must uphold a quality that is moral and ethical in nature. As human beings, we bring a human understanding to the rule of law. Each of us has the skills, the knowledge and experience to do our jobs, but it is the extra dedication, honesty, integrity and trust that brings us truly together for the betterment of our society.

An oft told fable, oft told by me, anyway, illustrates how we can make a difference.

There had been a big storm and a man headed to the beach to see what had washed up. Standing on the bluff in the early morning, he could see a lone person walking on the beach, taking a few steps, leaning over, picking something up, and throwing it into the water, over and over again.

When he got down on the shore, he could see hundreds of starfish. Reaching the man on the beach, he asked, ‘What are you doing?’ He said, ‘Why, I am throwing the starfish into the sea, if I don’t they will die.’ He then asked: ‘Why are you doing that? There are hundreds of starfish, you can’t possibly make any difference.’ As the man picked up the starfish and threw it into the sea, he said, ‘Well, I made a difference to that one.’

We do make a difference every day, individually, collectively. We make a difference . . . by what we do, and what we don’t do. And we make a difference by how we do it. Every day . . . every moment of every day, we get to decide the difference we make.

I often ask people, ‘What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?’ ‘What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?’ I think that is what you should be doing. To understand that we hold in our hands the power to change a circumstance, a mind or a life today – right now – is incredible. And we each have that power.

The judicial branch is responsible for the delivery of justice. We who work in the branch – justices, judges, administrators, clerks and professional staff, at the Administrative Office of the Courts and all court levels: municipal, district, superior, intermediate appellate and supreme – are stewards of justice.

As stewards of justice, it is our duty to see that the judicial branch carries out its responsibilities and achieves its goals.

I see those as being: A justice system that works hard to address the challenges it is facing; a justice system that recognizes the role it plays in people’s lives and society’s fabric; a justice system where all who come to the court and all who work in the court feel they are, and actually are, treated fairly and with dignity and respect; a justice system where parties feel they are, and actually are, welcome and safe, regardless of income, age, ability or any status; a justice system that has the necessary infrastructure and information systems to handle cases effectively and efficiently; and a justice system that the public deserves to, and does, have trust and confidence in.

Bringing fair, efficient, effective justice to the people of

Washington in an era of uncertain funding and contentious times is an enormous challenge. We, in the justice system, are committed to continually improving justice by seeking new knowledge and better methods while not allowing the circumstances to overwhelm us – believing that each individual, each committee, and each court can make a difference and that every improvement, no matter the size, adds to the better whole.

Washington is fortunate to have a judicial branch filled with people who will never give up trying to make a difference and improving justice, in ways big and small.

My goal as Chief Justice is to encourage and support those efforts, and today, I applaud and report to you the work being done in our justice system.

As you know, our state’s justice system is present in every corner of our state. It functions in state, county and municipal courthouses, and is presided over by nine Supreme Court justices, twenty-two Court of Appeals judges, one-hundred ninety-three superior court judges and two-hundred six full and part-time district and municipal court judges.

At every level, our courts have a direct impact on the lives of individuals and businesses. This is particularly true of our trial courts.

At the limited jurisdiction court level, our municipal court and district court judges handle misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor crimes. District courts also handle small claims cases and civil actions when less than \$100,000 are sought in small claims cases. Our limited jurisdiction trial court judges see huge numbers of persons in their courts each year and can truly be called our ‘people’s courts.’

At the superior court level, which is our general jurisdiction trial court level, judges hear cases on all matter of issues including civil matters over \$100,000, felony crimes, family law issues and juvenile matters.

At the trial courts is also where our therapeutic courts may be— drug court, mental health court, veterans’ court, community court, etc. These therapeutic courts are problem solving courts.

The Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court review cases that have been decided in the trial courts.

Important work is being done at each level of court and throughout the judicial branch. We are working hard to have and maintain a strong and fair justice system because justice matters. ‘If we do not maintain justice, justice will not maintain us.’

While the state of the judiciary is strong, it cannot remain so unless we continue to examine and address issues that confront us now, anticipate new issues on the horizon and prepare to meet them.

Leadership of a branch does not happen in a vacuum – it takes active listening, openness to understanding the problems, respect for different viewpoints, and enthusiasm for working with others. We are blessed with outstanding judges, court personnel and others who embrace that role and work tirelessly to maintain and move our justice system into the future.

Speaking of our justice system in the future – there is no greater way to preserve democracy than to ensure that our youth respect and understand their rights and responsibilities.

With that goal, the Council on Public Legal Education developed an initiative to address gaps in meaningful civil learning by youth. The legislative, executive and judicial branches, with many community partners, then worked together to establish the Civic Learning Initiative, focusing on the policies, resources, and support necessary for successful civics education in K through 12 and youth development programs, with emphasized outreach to underserved youth.

Governor Inslee and I convened two summits. The Legislature passed and the Governor signed House Bill 1896, which requires

every Washington high school, beginning with the 2020 - 2021 school year to provide a one-semester civics course.

Complementing that effort, last September 17, the anniversary of the adoption of the United States Constitution in 1787, we launched a new Constitution Day outreach event in classrooms across the state. More than one hundred judicial officers and attorneys engaged students in conversations about the constitution and what it means to them.

Judges and lawyers and partners in the justice system are working together on many other projects. For example, the Superior Court Judges' Association sponsors a 'Color of Justice' program, and the Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission sponsors 'Youth and Justice Forums', which connect judicial mentors of color and attorneys of color to minority youth. In 2018, students ages 11 to 18 met with judge and attorney mentors in Thurston, Yakima and King Counties and in the Tri-Cities. These events give the young people the opportunity to talk with judges and attorneys who look like them, and have similar backgrounds. They get to learn about the judicial branch and careers in law, and are able to imagine themselves in those positions one day.

A 2016 nationwide study by the American Constitution Society found that the judicial branch does not reflect the country's diversity, with minorities only making up 20% of judges and women only making up 30%. Our judicial branch is working on changing that disparity, because we know that by valuing diversity in our workforce, we promote equity and justice for all.

The Supreme Court Gender and Justice Commission will be examining in depth the degree to which gender affects justice in Washington today. Their work is supported by a national grant provided to help fund the study.

The Commission will use an evidence-based research model to look at gender impacts on justice. One particular focus will be on how race and poverty impact women who access the courts. Recent public awareness regarding the extent to which gender bias and sexual harassment remain significant issues in the workplace make the timing of the study appropriate and necessary.

2018 marked the fourteenth year that courts statewide have celebrated National Adoption Day and hosted community events in order to celebrate adoptions and raise awareness of the many foster children who are legally free and waiting and wanting to join new families.

2018 was the first year that the Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care designated that June be Family Reunification Month. The Commission asked courts statewide to host public celebrations of families in dependency cases who worked hard and completed reunification with their children.

The legislature and the courts have also worked together the last couple of years to examine legal financial obligations. Legal financial obligations are those fines and costs that our laws and court orders impose on people who are convicted of infractions and crimes.

More and more, we are realizing that failure to pay in many instances is due to a person's inability to pay or indigency, rather than a willful failure to pay. The Legal Financial Obligations Consortium has been and is gathering data and developing strategies for collection of legal financial obligations that support, rather than undermine, accountability and rehabilitation for those who struggle to afford court fines and fees.

Significant steps have already been taken based on this work. The legislature passed and the governor signed House Bill 1783. We launched the legal financial obligations calculator prototype, designed to help Washington judges set appropriate levels of fines and fees based on current laws and statutes, and a defendant's ability to pay. The consortium has more than 50 members from

different sectors across the state.

Another area where a wide group of people have come together to discuss, and hopefully solve a problem, is the area of pretrial reform. Every day across Washington, trial judges make decisions regarding pretrial release or detention that have consequences for our communities and for people accused of crimes. The Pretrial Reform Task Force is composed of judges, prosecutors, public defenders, bail business owners, legal aid attorneys, court administrators and officials, researchers and more.

The task force will assess the information judges need to make these pretrial decisions and gather data to formulate recommendations for expanding pretrial release. They will also evaluate ways to minimize the impact of pretrial detention of low risk offenders by exploring safe and cost-effective alternatives to full incarceration.

I have spent some time discussing our policy work. Let me talk now about the practical aspect of delivering justice.

In Washington, we are a decentralized judicial system, meaning we are not a unified system. Court funding comes from the state, county and cities. Judges in Washington are elected in statewide, county and sometimes municipal elections. The Supreme Court and superior courts are created by the State Constitution. The Court of Appeals and the district and municipal courts are created by legislation, either state or local.

The one area that we do have a mainly unified system is in the area of information technology. The Judicial Information System Committee, created by state legislation, is responsible for information technology decisions implemented by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Our funding comes from a dedicated Judicial Information System account and recently also from the general fund as there is not enough dedicated money for the information technology work that needs to be done.

For many years, we have worked hard to replace antiquated systems at all levels of court. We are still working. However, I am happy to report there has been major progress.

At the end of 2018, five years after beginning implementation, we successfully completed statewide implementation of the Superior Court Case Management System, known as Odyssey, in thirty-seven of the thirty-nine counties. King and Pierce Counties chose not to come on the state system and were allowed by the legislature to develop or keep their own systems. The Odyssey system replaces a case processing system from the 1970s that was used by superior courts and county clerks.

The new system provides much more case management functionality and modern information, and document sharing abilities. A new Judges' Edition enhances tools for judges in the courtroom and in their offices. A new public portal provides the public with free access to case information. I am very proud to report that the Superior Court Case Management System project was successfully completed, on time and within budget.

In 2017, the Supreme Court and the three divisions of the Court of Appeals began using their new Appellate Court Enterprise Content Management System.

Because of this system, the appellate courts are using the same document management system and have automated many of their workflows and business processes. Our plan for the future includes having fully electronic appellate court records.

Our district and municipal courts cannot efficiently serve the public with their current system based on 1980s technology. We must acquire a modern case management system for Washington courts of limited jurisdiction. We had earnestly begun this work, but, when faced with a solution that did not meet our needs or subjected the state to unreasonable risk, we took a pause to regroup and re-evaluate our options. The Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management Project Steering Committee has developed guiding principles and key features of a case

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management system, and is now working with a consulting firm that is assisting us to determine a solution or solutions that best meets the needs of our courts of limited jurisdiction and probation departments. Although we made a wise and prudent choice to delay acquiring a new case management system for our courts of limited jurisdiction, the need is great and the work continues.

One final major project we are working on is an information networking hub, which is a statewide enterprise data repository system and data exchange. This is necessary for at least two reasons – first to make sure courts across Washington have access to the same case information, and second to exchange data with state agencies. Since Washington has a nonunified court system and some courts are implementing their own case management systems, we are developing a statewide data repository and establishing standard methods for local court systems to share data with that central repository. When complete, this will maintain a statewide view of case information for judicial decision-making. This exchange is in the works and will be piloted with King County.

While working on these significant statewide judicial information technology projects, the Administrative Office of the Courts is also working on information technology projects with other state agencies that impact the delivery of justice.

For example, in September 2018, the Supreme Court and Division III of the Court of Appeals, in conjunction with the Washington State Penitentiary and the Department of Corrections, launched a pilot project to assess the benefits of allowing inmates to file legal documents electronically, because a large number of prisoner petitions are filed in the appellate courts.

Also in 2018, the Administrative Office of the Courts supported the Department of Licensing's major modernization of driver licensing systems by replacing or modifying key interfaces between the two agencies. Because there are over 800,000 licensing-related filings in the courts per year, it is critical that the courts and the Department of Licensing are able to share and retrieve accurate information.

And now for what we are focusing on specifically in this legislative session – interpreter funding and court system education.

It is fundamental to justice that all individuals, including those with limited English proficiency or who are deaf or hard of hearing, are able to understand and meaningfully participate in courtroom proceedings.

A recent survey revealed that 59% of courts experienced delays in proceedings when interpreter services were unavailable. Small and rural courts report particular difficulties in providing qualified interpreters. Delays impose extra costs on the public and on the participants in the proceedings.

Ensuring that a qualified interpreter is available at the beginning of a case, not only ensures that minor legal issues are resolved promptly, but can also help avoid legal issues from compounding, if not handled appropriately.

State funding for interpreters has been flat since 2008, yet a recent study of Washington courts found that the cost of providing interpreters is increasing. Also increasing are the number of languages spoken in courts – nearly 30% more languages are being spoken statewide, with one court reporting that nearly 165 languages are spoken.

Access to qualified interpreters can have life-altering consequences. Without access, victims of crimes or abuse often face negative impacts, delayed responses or no assistance. For those seeking resolutions in high-risk situations, such as when needing a protection order, a court interpreter can be a matter of life and death.

To address this, the Board for Judicial Administration, using a plan developed by the Interpreter Services Funding Task Force, are asking state lawmakers in 2019 for \$2.1 million dollars in additional state funds for interpreter costs. Increased funding will help additional courts, especially rural and small courts, access the Interpreter Reimbursement Program and support interpreter recruitment and testing to increase the number of qualified interpreters.

Another major priority for the judicial branch this year is proper training for judges and court staff across Washington. It is essential that all who work in the court system are well trained in substantive law, technical areas and societal issues. In the last three years, the legislature passed or amended more than 150 laws in a wide array of substantive policy areas, for example, relating to driving under the influence, family law and parentage, guardianship, mental health, public records, and juvenile justice.

Besides knowing the law, judges and court personnel must use and understand technical systems critical to criminal history information, sentencing, case management, and more. And judges and staff, especially in trial courts, see first-hand the impacts of changing societal factors like the crack and opioid epidemics and the exploding number of self-represented litigants. Judges and court personnel must be trained to effectively and efficiently insure that justice occurs in the cases that come before them.

One other thing to note is that the judicial branch is experiencing significant turnover of judges and court staff in staggering numbers due to the aging of our workforce and the lure of better paying jobs. We have a record sixty-nine brand new judicial officers since last January.

Funding for court training has remained the same for more than a decade, despite increasing needs. The Board for Judicial Administration, using a plan established by the Court System Education Funding Task Force, is seeking an increase of \$1.4 million dollars for court training, recognizing that without necessary training in these critical areas the work of the courts will be ineffective and inefficient. Such funding will also ensure equal access for small and rural courts that struggle to afford training opportunities.

Another issue of great concern to the judicial branch, and what we will be dedicating our energy to next, is courthouse security. A safe courthouse environment is fundamental to the administration of justice.

To address court security, the Board for Judicial Administration is now convening a Court Security Task Force to assess security at all trial courts throughout Washington. The Court Security Task Force will develop recommendations for how we can ensure that every courthouse in Washington is safe for jurors, litigants, court employees and the public that we serve.

Finally, all of the work of the judicial branch is supported and enhanced by the Administrative Office of the Courts. In 2017, the Administrative Office of the Courts celebrated 60 years of serving Washington's judiciary. I want to publicly thank the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts for their hard work, thoughtfulness and professionalism. Every day, the people who work for the Administrative Office of the Courts show their dedication to the people of Washington and their commitment to advancing the efficient and effective operation of the Washington judicial system.

We have a new State Court Administrator, Dawn Marie Rubio. She brings a depth of knowledge about court issues from her varied experience with multiple state court systems. We are thrilled someone of her caliber will continue the strong leadership of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Although we are not a unified court system, we are unified in

many ways. I have the great pleasure, having been elected by my colleagues, to serve as the Chief Justice of the state of Washington. Because of that, every day I get to work with, and see the work of, court staff, judicial officers and judicial branch personnel across the state. I get to see the difference they are making every day.

As Chief Justice, I also get to work with you – our legislative and executive branch partners. I get to see the difference you are making every day.

I want to remind you that time is precious. For whatever reasons, this is our individual and collective time and place. It is when and where we are serving in the three branches of government. It is when we are deciding what government looks like in *our* Washington.

None of us know how many days we have to make a difference. This is again especially true for me. My stage four cancer that I survived eight years ago has returned, and I am currently undergoing treatment. I will continue working. I still believe in miracles. As Albert Einstein said, ‘There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.’

Everything is a miracle. Every day is a miracle. Let’s not waste the days we have. Working individually and together, on behalf of those that we faithfully serve, we can, and are, making a difference.

Together, we will not fail. We can change the world to be what we want it to be, and we must ensure that all who seek justice, find it.

I would like to close with what my family calls the ‘joy’ pose. This is what we often do when we are overwhelmed with happiness. Because I am overflowing with happiness, hope and gratitude for you, for me, for us, and for all of Washington.”

[The Chief Justice raised her hands over her head, palms up.]

The President thanked Chief Justice Fairhurst for her remarks.

The President called upon the committee of honor to escort Chief Justice Fairhurst from the rostrum and the Chief Justice retired from the Chamber.

The President called upon the committee of honor to escort the statewide elected officials from the Chamber.

The President called upon the committee of honor to escort the Justices of the Supreme Court from the Chamber.

MOTION

On motion of Senator Liias, the Joint Session was dissolved.

The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms of the House escorted members of the House of Representatives from the Senate Chamber.

The Senate was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by President Habib.

MOTION

At 12:11 p.m., on motion of Senator Liias, the Senate adjourned until 12:00 o'clock p.m. Thursday, January 17, 2019.

CYRUS HABIB, President of the Senate

BRAD HENDRICKSON, Secretary of the Senate

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