

MEMORANDUM

DATE September 18, 2019

TO: Members, Washington Association of County Officials

FROM: Jennifer Wallace, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Priority Legislative Proposals for the 2020 Session

Accompanying this memo are the proposals for WACO priority legislation for the 2020 session. The process for member review and consideration will be:

September 19th

Package of affiliate priority bills sent to WACO membership for review in preparation for conference.

October 1st (WACO Board meeting)

WACO Board of Trustees meets jointly with one representative from each affiliate, presumably the Legislative Chair, to review and discuss affiliate legislative proposals. The Board will review each proposal and may vote to support the proposals prior sending the proposals to the WACO membership for consideration and adoption.

October 1st / 2nd (WACO Conference - affiliate meetings)

WACO affiliates meet and, among other items on their agendas, review legislative proposals submitted by other affiliates. Potential conflicts are discussed and resolved.

October 2nd (WACO Conference - business meeting)

WACO membership reviews, discusses and deliberates legislative proposals. Polls will be open for all WACO members to vote on proposals immediately following the business meeting via one of two methods until the polls close at 5:00p.m.:

1. In-person. A ballot box will be available to members on site who wish to vote using the in-person ballot drop box.
2. E-ballot. In every member's inbox immediately following the close of the business meeting an electronic ballot (survey monkey) will be available for your voting. The voting will close at the same time as physical on location balloting will close

October 3rd (WACO Conference – continued business meeting / closing)

Results of WACO member voting on 2020 Legislative Priorities announced.

2020 Legislative Session WACO Priority Legislation and Legislative Relations

WACO works closely with the affiliates who have submitted priority legislation. Priority Legislation is reserved for those bills that WACO membership has chosen for WACO to work for passage. Additional services from WACO are also available to affiliates, regardless of whether they have priority legislation in any given session, focused on building legislative understanding on affiliate roles and issues.

Affiliate: Washington State Association of County Assessors

Section 1: Affiliate legislative contacts

1. Affiliate Legislative Chair(s) for 2020 Session (primary contact for WACO staff related to legislative session):

Mike Lonergan, Pierce County Assessor / Treasurer, Co-Chair
Steve Drew, Thurston County Assessor, Co-Chair

2. Affiliate representative(s) with authority to direct WACO staff related to proposed amendments to your priority bills or to communicate your affiliate's position on legislation affecting the affiliate to WACO staff:

Mike Lonergan, Pierce County Assessor / Treasurer, Co-Chair
Steve Drew, Thurston County Assessor, Co-Chair
Dave Thomas, Skagit County Assessor and WSACA President

Section 2: Priority Legislation Request for the 2020 Session

Information below is essential for both consideration of proposal by full WACO membership as well as helping WACO staff support priority legislation success. If you are not proposing priority bills for the 2019 session, please skip to Section 3.

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #1:

Technical corrections dealing with Levy Calendar

Purpose of Legislation: RCW contains outdated timelines and processes which both DOR and County Assessors agree no longer make sense, and with which DOR rules do not agree and County Assessors are unable to comply. DOR advises County Assessors to disregard these timelines and adhere to DOR rules, yet County Assessors receive negative review from Auditors for non-compliance and DOR has not prioritized clean-up of these sections of RCW. This bill would correct and update the RCW.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

3. Status of bill language?

Working with staff of potential sponsor to draft bill

4. Status of sponsorship?

Potential sponsor identified

5. Other / Additional information:

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #2:

Update Agricultural Property Tax Exemption by adding income requirement of \$4,000 for properties 20 acres and above.

Purpose of Legislation: Correct inconsistencies and inequities in RCW

Status of Proposal Development:

6. Affiliates has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts

7. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

WACO and WSACA working with Farm Bureau

8. Status of bill language?

Under development

9. Status of sponsorship?

Potential sponsors identified

10. Other / Additional information:

**2020 Legislative Session
WACO Priority Legislation and Legislative Relations**

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Affiliate: Washington State Association of County Auditors

Section 1: Affiliate legislative contacts

1. Affiliate Legislative Chair(s) for 2020 Session (primary contact for WACO staff related to legislative session):

Diana Bradrick, Whatcom County Auditor and WSACA Legislative Chair

2. Affiliate representative(s) with authority to direct WACO staff related to proposed amendments to your priority bills or to communicate your affiliate's position on legislation affecting the affiliate to WACO staff:

Heidi Hunt, Adams County Auditor and WSACA President
Diana Bradrick, Whatcom County Auditor and WSACA Legislative Chair

Section 2: Priority Legislation Request for the 2020 Session

Information below is essential for both consideration of proposal by full WACO membership as well as helping WACO staff support priority legislation success. If you are not proposing priority bills for the 2019 session, please skip to Section 3.

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #1:

Stay Pay Fair Share of Election Costs

Purpose of Legislation: Makes counties, cities, towns, districts and the state pay for their proportionate share of election costs for every election. This is a previously approved WACO priority bill.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

Superior Court Judges, Court Administrators and WSAC will likely all support

3. Status of bill language?

Bill was HB 1291 (Walsh) and SB 5073 (Hunt) in the 2019 session

4. Status of sponsorship?

Likely same sponsors

5. Other / Additional information:

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #2:

Marriage licensing and solemnization by County Auditors.

Purpose of Legislation:

Authorizes county auditors to solemnize marriages. Requires county auditors to issue marriage licenses at the time of application and allows marriage licenses to be used immediately, eliminating the current 3-day waiting period. A declining number of states still have a waiting period. The waiting period has proved problematic for members of the military.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliates has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

Organizations / agencies serving military members and their families.

3. Status of bill language?

HB 2314 (Killduff) in 2018 session.

4. Status of sponsorship?

Likely same sponsor / potential Senate sponsor identified

5. Other / Additional information:

SENATE BILL 5073

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Hunt, Cleveland, Hawkins, Zeiger, Kuderer, Short, Wagoner, and Warnick

Prefiled 01/04/19. Read first time 01/14/19. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to state reimbursement of election costs;
2 amending RCW 29A.04.410, 29A.04.420, 29A.04.216, 29A.04.430, and
3 29A.64.081; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.410 and 2013 c 11 s 10 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Every county, city, town, ((and)) district, and the state is
8 liable for its proportionate share of the costs when such elections
9 are held in conjunction with other elections held under RCW
10 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330.

11 Whenever any county, city, town, ((or)) district, or the state
12 holds any primary or election, general or special, on an isolated
13 date, all costs of such elections must be borne by the county, city,
14 town, or district concerned, or the state as appropriate.

15 The purpose of this section is to clearly establish that the
16 county is not responsible for any costs involved in the holding of
17 any city, town, ((or)) district, state, or federal election.

18 In recovering such election expenses, including a reasonable
19 ((pro-ration)) proration of administrative costs, the county auditor
20 shall certify the cost to the county treasurer with a copy to the
21 clerk or auditor of the city, town, or district concerned, or the

1 secretary of state as appropriate. Upon receipt of such certification
2 relating to a city, town, or district, the county treasurer shall
3 make the transfer from any available and appropriate city, town, or
4 district funds to the county current expense fund or to the county
5 election reserve fund if such a fund is established. Each city, town,
6 or district must be promptly notified by the county treasurer
7 whenever such transfer has been completed. However, in those
8 districts wherein a treasurer, other than the county treasurer, has
9 been appointed such transfer procedure does not apply, but the
10 district shall promptly issue its warrant for payment of election
11 costs. State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for
12 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.420 and 2013 c 11 s 11 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Whenever federal officers, state officers, or state measures
16 are voted upon at a state primary or general election held (~~in an~~
17 ~~odd-numbered year~~) under RCW 29A.04.321, the state of Washington
18 shall assume a prorated share of the costs of that state primary or
19 general election for the federal and state offices and measures.

20 (2) Whenever a primary or vacancy election is held to fill a
21 vacancy in the position of United States senator or United States
22 representative under chapter 29A.28 RCW, the state of Washington
23 shall assume a prorated share of the costs of that primary or vacancy
24 election.

25 (3) The county auditor shall apportion the state's share of these
26 expenses when prorating election costs under RCW 29A.04.410 and in
27 accordance with the state budgeting, accounting, and reporting
28 system, and shall file such expense claims with the secretary of
29 state.

30 (4) The secretary of state shall include in his or her biennial
31 budget requests sufficient funds to carry out this section.
32 Reimbursements for election costs shall be from appropriations
33 specifically provided by law for that purpose.

34 (5) State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for
35 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.04.216 and 2013 c 11 s 7 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 The county auditor of each county shall be ex officio the
2 supervisor of all primaries and elections, general or special, and it
3 shall be the county auditor's duty to provide places for holding such
4 primaries and elections; to provide the supplies and materials
5 necessary for the conduct of elections; and to publish and post
6 notices of calling such primaries and elections in the manner
7 provided by law. The auditor shall also apportion to the county, each
8 city, town, or district, and to the state of Washington (~~in the odd-~~
9 ~~numbered year~~), its share of the expense of such primaries and
10 elections. This section does not apply to general or special
11 elections for any city, town, or district that is not subject to RCW
12 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, but all such elections must be held and
13 conducted at the time, in the manner, and by the officials (with such
14 notice, requirements for filing for office, and certifications by
15 local officers) as provided and required by the laws governing such
16 elections. State and federal offices are to be considered one entity
17 for purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.04.430 and 2003 c 111 s 148 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 For any reimbursement of election costs under RCW 29A.04.420, the
21 secretary of state shall pay (~~interest at an annual rate equal to~~
22 ~~two percentage points in excess of the discount rate on ninety-day~~
23 ~~commercial paper in effect at the federal reserve bank in San~~
24 ~~Francisco on the fifteenth day of the month immediately preceding the~~
25 ~~payment for any period of time in excess of~~) within thirty days
26 after the receipt of a properly executed and documented voucher for
27 such expenses and the entry of an allotment from specifically
28 appropriated funds for this purpose until those funds are exhausted.
29 If funds appropriated for this purpose are not sufficient to pay all
30 claims, the secretary of state shall include a budget request to the
31 legislature during the next legislative session for sufficient funds
32 for reimbursement of all remaining claims and shall pay all properly
33 executed and documented vouchers to the counties within thirty days
34 of allotment of specifically appropriated funds for this purpose. The
35 secretary of state shall promptly notify any county that submits an
36 incomplete or inaccurate voucher for reimbursement under RCW
37 29A.04.420.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.64.081 and 2004 c 271 s 181 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The canvassing board shall determine the expenses for conducting
4 a recount of votes.

5 (1) For a recount conducted under RCW 29A.64.011, the cost of the
6 recount shall be deducted from the amount deposited by the applicant
7 for the recount at the time of filing the request for the recount,
8 and the balance shall be returned to the applicant. If the costs of
9 the recount exceed the deposit, the applicant shall pay the
10 difference. No charges may be deducted by the canvassing board from
11 the deposit for a recount if the recount changes the result of the
12 nomination or election for which the recount was ordered.

13 (2) For a recount conducted under RCW 29A.64.021, for an office
14 where the candidates filed the declarations of candidacy with the
15 secretary of state, any legislative office, and any congressional
16 office, the county auditor shall file an expense claim for such costs
17 with the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall include a
18 budget request to the legislature during the next legislative session
19 for sufficient funds for reimbursement of all costs of the recount
20 and shall pay all properly executed and documented vouchers to the
21 counties within thirty days of allotment of specifically appropriated
22 funds for this purpose. The secretary of state shall promptly notify
23 any county that submits an incomplete or inaccurate voucher for
24 reimbursement under this section.

25 (3) State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for
26 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2020.

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HOUSE BILL 2314

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Muri, Kilduff, Graves, Dolan, Hudgins, Reeves, and Jinkins

Prefiled 12/22/17. Read first time 01/08/18. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to marriage licensing and solemnization by county
2 auditors; amending RCW 26.04.050, 26.04.070, and 26.04.180; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 26.04 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.04.050 and 2017 c 130 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The following named officers and persons, active or retired, are
8 hereby authorized to solemnize marriages, to wit: Justices of the
9 supreme court, judges of the court of appeals, judges of the superior
10 courts, supreme court commissioners, court of appeals commissioners,
11 superior court commissioners, judges of courts of limited
12 jurisdiction as defined in RCW 3.02.010, judges of tribal courts from
13 a federally recognized tribe, county auditors, and any regularly
14 licensed or ordained minister or any priest, imam, rabbi, or similar
15 official of any religious organization. The solemnization of a
16 marriage by a tribal court judge pursuant to authority under this
17 section does not create tribal court jurisdiction and does not affect
18 state court authority as otherwise provided by law to enter a
19 judgment for purposes of any dissolution, legal separation, or other
20 proceedings related to the marriage that is binding on the parties
21 and entitled to full faith and credit.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 26.04.070 and 2012 c 3 s 6 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 In the solemnization of marriage no particular form is required,
4 except that the parties thereto shall assent or declare in the
5 presence of the minister, priest, imam, rabbi, or similar official of
6 any religious organization, county auditor, or judicial officer
7 solemnizing the same, and in the presence of at least two attending
8 witnesses, that they take each other to be spouses.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 26.04.180 and 1985 c 82 s 4 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 The county auditor (~~(may)~~) shall issue the marriage license at
12 the time of application(~~(, but shall issue such license no later than~~
13 ~~the third full day following the date of the application)~~). A
14 marriage license issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter
15 (~~(may not be used until three days after the date of application~~
16 ~~and)~~) shall become void if the marriage is not solemnized within
17 sixty days of the date of the issuance of the license, and the county
18 auditor shall notify the applicant in writing of this requirement at
19 the time of issuance of the license.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 26.04
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 Any fee charged by a county auditor for the solemnization of
23 marriage conducted in a county-owned facility shall be fixed by the
24 county legislative authority and shall be deposited into the county
25 general fund.

--- END ---

**2020 Legislative Session
WACO Priority Legislation and Legislative Relations**

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Affiliate: Washington State Association of County Clerks

Section 1: Affiliate legislative contacts

1. Affiliate Legislative Chair(s) for 2020 Session (primary contact for WACO staff related to legislative session):

Alison Sonntag, Kitsap County Clerk
Josie Delvin, Benton County Clerk

2. Affiliate representative(s) with authority to direct WACO staff related to proposed amendments to your priority bills or to communicate your affiliate's position on legislation affecting the affiliate to WACO staff:

Alison Sonntag, Kitsap County Clerk
Josie Delvin, Benton County Clerk
Tim Fitzgerald, Spokane County Clerk and WSACC President

Section 2: Priority Legislation Request for the 2020 Session

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2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #1:

State Pay for State Dependency Actions

Purpose of Legislation: When state took over dependency actions in (YEAR?), they left responsibility for paying for publication of pending actions in local newspapers to County Clerks. This is costly, ineffective and not aligned with the responsibility residing with the state.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

Superior Court Judges, Court Administrators and WSAC may support

3. Status of bill language?

Drafted

4. Status of sponsorship?

Likely sponsor identified

5. Other / Additional information:

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #2:

Eliminate unnecessary provisions related to the Clerks' duties and court-ordered bond increases in RCW 36.23.020

Purpose of Legislation: RCW allows judges, without specified cause or criteria, to direct a county clerk to obtain additional bond or lose their office. RCW is also insufficiently clear as to whether the cap on bond is for the initial bond and/or supplemental bond or both. This is unnecessary as there is already legal remedy in RCW related to Clerk failure of duty. At the very least RCW should specify criteria under which the courts would be allowed to impose additional bond.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliates has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

3. Status of bill language?

Drafted

4. Status of sponsorship?

Likely sponsor identified

5. Other / Additional information:

In response to Yakima County case.

RCW 13.34.080**Summons when petition filed—Publication of notice.**

(1) The court shall direct the ~~clerk~~ department to publish notice in a legal newspaper printed in the county, qualified to publish summons, once a week for three consecutive weeks, with the first publication of the notice to be at least twenty-five days prior to the date fixed for the hearing when it appears by the petition or verified statement that:

(a)(i) The parent or guardian is a nonresident of this state; or
 (ii) The name or place of residence or whereabouts of the parent or guardian is unknown; and

(b) After due diligence, the person attempting service of the summons or notice provided for in RCW **13.34.070** has been unable to make service, and a copy of the notice has been deposited in the post office, postage prepaid, directed to such person at his or her last known place of residence. If the parent, guardian, or legal custodian is believed to be a resident of another state or a county other than the county in which the petition has been filed, notice also shall be published in the county in which the parent, guardian, or legal custodian is believed to reside.

(2) Publication may proceed simultaneously with efforts to provide service in person or by mail, when the court determines there is reason to believe that service in person or by mail will not be successful. Notice shall be directed to the parent, parents, or other person claiming the right to the custody of the child, if their names are known. If their names are unknown, the phrase "To whom it may concern" shall be used, apply to, and be binding upon, those persons whose names are unknown. The name of the court, the name of the child (or children if of one family), the date of the filing of the petition, the date of hearing, and the object of the proceeding in general terms shall be set forth. There shall be filed with the clerk an affidavit showing due publication of the notice. The cost of publication shall be paid by the ~~county~~ department at a rate not greater than the rate paid for other legal notices. The publication of notice shall be deemed equivalent to personal service upon all persons, known or unknown, who have been designated as provided in this section.

[**2000 c 122 § 9; 1990 c 246 § 3; 1988 c 201 § 1; 1979 c 155 § 41; 1977 ex.s. c 291 § 36; 1961 c 302 § 4; 1913 c 160 § 7; RRS § 1987-7. Formerly RCW 13.04.080.**]

NOTES:

Severability—1990 c 246: See note following RCW **13.34.060**.

Effective date—Severability—1979 c 155: See notes following RCW **13.04.011**.

Effective dates—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 291: See notes following RCW **13.04.005**.

~~RCW 36.23.020~~

~~New bond may be required.~~

~~When the judge or judges of any court, or a majority of them, believe that the clerk of the court does not have a good and sufficient bond on file, or that the bond is not large enough in amount, such judge or judges shall enter an order requiring him or her, within such time as may be specified in the order, to execute and present to them a good and sufficient bond, in such sum as may be fixed by the order. In case of his or her failure to file the bond within ten days from the expiration of the date fixed the judge or judges shall declare the office vacant.~~

[**2009 c 549 § 4028; 1963 c 4 § 36.23.020.** Prior: **1895 c 53 § 3;** RRS § 72.]

We believe this statute should be stricken completely. It is redundant and inappropriately peremptory. There is already an adequate remedy in the statute below:

RCW 42.08.110

Procedure when bond of county or township officer is insufficient.

Whenever the sureties, or any one of them, in the official bond of any county or township officer shall die, remove from the state, become insolvent or insufficient, or the penalty of such bond shall become insufficient, on account of recoveries had thereon, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of the proper county, of their own motion, or on the showing of any person, supported by affidavit, to summon any such officer to appear before them at a stated time, not less than five days after service of such summons, and show cause why he or she should not execute an additional official bond with good and sufficient sureties.

2020 Legislative Session WACO Priority Legislation and Legislative Relations

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Affiliate: Washington Association of County Coroners and Medical Examiners

Section 1: Affiliate legislative contacts

1. Affiliate Legislative Chair(s) for 2020 Session (primary contact for WACO staff related to legislative session):

Tim Davidson, Cowlitz County Coroner and WACME President

2. Affiliate representative(s) with authority to direct WACO staff related to proposed amendments to your priority bills or to communicate your affiliate's position on legislation affecting the affiliate to WACO staff:

Tim Davidson, Cowlitz County Coroner and WACME President

Section 2: Priority Legislation Request for the 2020 Session

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2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #1:

Mandate Certification and Accreditation for all Coroner / Medical Examiner Offices

Purpose of Legislation: In 2019 the State Legislature provided a sustained source for basic death investigation training for Coroners/MEs and their staff. WACME has been updating the training curriculum to meet national standards. With sustained funding and affordable, accessible training, all Coroners should be expected to complete it within a reasonable time period. This mirrors state law with regards to Sheriffs and basic law enforcement academy training. In addition, only 8 of 39 counties are nationally accredited, but all have the capacity to achieve it. WACME wants to raise the standards for its profession and asks the Legislature to reinforce this.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

3. Status of bill language?

Staff of identified sponsors drafting legislation

4. Status of sponsorship?

Sponsors in House and Senate identified

5. Other / Additional information:

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #2:

Equitably reimburse county coroner and medical examiner offices for autopsy costs.

Purpose of Legislation: Amend RCW to correct inequity in autopsy reimbursement between county coroner-contracted pathologist services at 40% and employed pathologists, primarily serving in Medical Examiners Offices, currently reimbursed at only 25%. The proposal would raise the reimbursement for employed pathologists to 30%.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliates has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

Forensic Investigations Council

3. Status of bill language?

Drafted

4. Status of sponsorship?

Likely sponsors identified

5. Other / Additional information:

AN ACT Relating to cost of autopsy; amending RCW 68.50.104

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Sec. 1. RCW 68.50.104 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The cost of autopsy shall be borne by the county in which the autopsy is performed, except when requested by the department of labor and industries, in which case, the department shall bear the cost of such autopsy.

(2) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, when the county bears the cost of an autopsy, it shall be reimbursed from the death investigations account, established by RCW 43.79.445, as follows:

(i) Up to forty percent of the cost of contracting for the services of a pathologist to perform an autopsy;

(ii) Up to ~~twenty-five~~ thirty percent of the salary of pathologists who are primarily engaged in performing autopsies and are (A) county coroners or county medical examiners, or (B) employees of a county coroner or county medical examiner; and

(iii) One hundred percent of the cost of autopsies conducted under RCW 70.54.450.

(b) When the county bears the cost of an autopsy of a child under the age of three whose death was sudden and unexplained, the county shall be reimbursed for the expenses of the autopsy when the death scene investigation and the autopsy have been conducted under RCW 43.103.100 (4) and (5), and the autopsy has been done at a facility designed for the performance of autopsies.

(3) Payments from the account shall be made pursuant to biennial appropriation: PROVIDED, That no county may reduce funds appropriated for this purpose below 1983 budgeted levels.

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WACO Priority Legislation and Legislative Relations**

WACO works closely with the affiliates who have submitted priority legislation. Priority Legislation is reserved for those bills that WACO membership has chosen for WACO to work for passage. Additional services from WACO are also available to affiliates, regardless of whether they have priority legislation in any given session, focused on building legislative understanding on affiliate roles and issues.

Affiliate: Washington State Sheriffs Association

Section 1: Affiliate legislative contacts

1. Affiliate Legislative Chair(s) for 2020 Session (primary contact for WACO staff related to legislative session):

John Snaza, Thurston County Sheriff, WSSA President and WASPC President
Joe Nole, Jefferson County Sheriff, WSSA Legislative Co-Chair

2. Affiliate representative(s) with authority to direct WACO staff related to proposed amendments to your priority bills or to communicate your affiliate's position on legislation affecting the affiliate to WACO staff:

John Snaza, Thurston County Sheriff, WSSA President and WASPC President
Joe Nole, Jefferson County Sheriff, WSSA Legislative Co-Chair

Section 2: Priority Legislation Request for the 2020 Session

Information below is essential for both consideration of proposal by full WACO membership as well as helping WACO staff support priority legislation success. If you are not proposing priority bills for the 2019 session, please skip to Section 3.

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #1:

Ensure qualifications for office of Sheriff include basic training / peace officer certification

Purpose of Legislation:

Require candidates for the office of County Sheriff to hold Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (SCJTC) peace officer certification, or an exemption / determined equivalent thereof, as determined by the Commission. Peace officer certification, required of all county, city, public university, and many state agency's law enforcement officers, requires completion of the SCJTC's basic law enforcement academy or equivalent. Under current law, a

newly elected Sheriff has up to one year to complete the basic law enforcement academy. This proposal would ensure they are qualified to serve on Day 1.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for or opposition to this bill?

Proposal was developed and has been approved by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs' Legislative Committee

3. Status of bill language?

Under development

4. Status of sponsorship?

Potential sponsors identified

5. Other / Additional information:

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #2:

Certification of Corrections Officers

Purpose of Legislation:

Required training for peace officers encompasses a large group of law enforcement personnel, including all city, county, public university, and many state agency officers. State Criminal Justice Training Commission (SCJTC) provides, but corrections officers are not required to take, training that leads to certification. This proposal would enact training, certification, and certificate revocation requirements for corrections officers.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate

- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for or opposition to this bill?

Proposal was developed and has been approved by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs' Legislative Committee

The proposal was advanced in 2005 and received considerable opposition from labor unions related to conditions under which corrections officers would lose their certificate. Emphasis of current proposal should be on training and certification, not as decertification as remedy for preventing re-employment of problem corrections officers. Proposal could blend well with proposals from Sheriffs and Coroners raising standards of practice and in response to offender-rights activities that seek more / improved training for law enforcement.

3. Status of bill language?

Under development

4. Status of sponsorship?

Potential sponsors identified

Other / Additional information:

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #3:

Reduce wait time for newly hired law enforcement officers to complete basic law enforcement academy from 6 months to 2 months

Purpose of Legislation:

Counties waste time and money when newly hired officers cannot be utilized because they have not completed basic law enforcement academy training. This is a continuation of past year proposal and requires the state to obligate necessary funds to meet demand. The state currently funds a baseline of 10 BLEA classes / year when at least 18 are needed.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for or opposition to this bill?

Proposal was developed and has been approved by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs' Legislative Committee

Likely supported by other entities reliant on basic law enforcement academy training and by the State Criminal Justice Training Center that provides the academy.

2020 is a supplemental budget session and as this required a significant influx of state funds is relatively unlikely but continuing to voice this as a priority is important to its ultimate success.

3. Status of bill language?

Under development

4. Status of sponsorship?

Potential sponsors identified

Other / Additional information:

2020 Legislative Session WACO Priority Legislation and Legislative Relations

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Affiliate: Washington State Association of County Treasurers

Section 1: Affiliate legislative contacts

1. Affiliate Legislative Chair(s) for 2020 Session (primary contact for WACO staff related to legislative session):

Jeff Gadman, Thurston County Treasurer

2. Affiliate representative(s) with authority to direct WACO staff related to proposed amendments to your priority bills or to communicate your affiliate's position on legislation affecting the affiliate to WACO staff:

Meredith Green, Kitsap County Treasurer and WSACT President
Jeff Gadman, Thurston County Treasurer and Legislative Committee Chair

Section 2: Priority Legislation Request for the 2020 Session

Information below is essential for both consideration of proposal by full WACO membership as well as helping WACO staff support priority legislation success. If you are not proposing priority bills for the 2019 session, please skip to Section 3.

2020 PRIORITY BILL / BUDGET REQUEST #1:

An ACT Relating to interest and penalty relief for qualified mobile and manufactured home owners

Purpose of Legislation: Site-built, real property homes are allowed three years of delinquent property taxes before foreclosure proceedings occur. Mobile and manufactured homes, as personal property, may be distrained and auctioned after only one year of delinquency. In addition, recent legislation has allowed for more flexible payment plans for delinquent real property accounts and there are more resources for owners of traditional "stick built" homes that are not available to mobile homeowners. This proposal extends the same timeline for real property and titled mobile / manufactured homes, and extends the waiver of interest and penalty

for low-income owners facing distraint that was afforded real property owners last session via EHB 1105.

Status of Proposal Development:

1. Affiliate has considered:

- ✓ Rationale for legislation as opposed to other remedies
- ✓ Timely issue / appropriate for particular session / political and fiscal climate
- ✓ Considered potential negative and positive impacts
- ✓ Facts and figures or anecdotes to show concept will fix problem / improve a situation
- ✓ Considered potential impact on other affiliates and discussed with them

2. Stakeholders that have expressed interest and/or potential support for this bill?

County Assessors, Homeownership / affordable housing advocates

3. Status of bill language?

Drafted

4. Status of sponsorship?

Potential sponsors identified

5. Other / Additional information:

DRAFT

An ACT Relating to interest and penalty relief for qualified mobile home and manufactured home owners; amending RCW 84.56.070; and adding a new section to RCW 84.56.070.

Personal property—Distraint and sale, notice, property incapable of manual delivery, property about to be removed or disposed of.

(1) The county treasurer must proceed to collect all personal property taxes after first completing the tax roll for the current year's collection. (2) The treasurer must give notice by mail to all persons charged with personal property taxes, and if the taxes are not paid before they become delinquent, the treasurer must commence delinquent collection efforts. A delinquent collection charge for costs incurred by the treasurer may be added to the account.

(3) In the event that the treasurer is unable to collect the taxes when due under this section, the treasurer must prepare papers in distraint, except as provided in this section. The papers must contain a description of the personal property, the amount of taxes including any amounts deferred under chapters [84.37](#) and [84.38](#) RCW that are a lien on the personal property to be distrained, the amount of the accrued interest at the rate provided by law from the date of delinquency, and the name of the owner or reputed owner.

(a) Non-title eliminated mobile homes and manufactured homes, as defined in RCW 46.04.302, will be subject to distraint three years after the date of first delinquency

(b) The treasurer must without demand or notice distraint sufficient goods and chattels belonging to the person charged with the taxes to pay the same, with interest at the rate provided by law from the date of delinquency, together with all accruing costs. The treasurer must proceed to advertise the distraint by posting written notices in three public places in the county in which the property has been distrained, including the county courthouse. The notice must state the time when and place where the property will be sold.

(c) The county treasurer, or the treasurer's deputy, must tax the same fees for making the distraint and sale of goods and chattels for the payment of taxes as are allowed by law to sheriffs for making levy and sale of property on execution. Traveling fees must be computed from the county seat of the county to the place of making distraint.

(d) If the taxes for which the property is distrained, and the interest and costs accruing thereon, are not paid before the date appointed for the sale, which may not be less than ten days after the taking of the property, the treasurer or treasurer's designee must proceed to sell the property at public auction, or so much thereof as is sufficient to pay the taxes and any amounts deferred under chapters [84.37](#) and [84.38](#) RCW that are a lien on the property to be sold, with interest and costs. If there is any excess of money arising from the sale of any personal property, the treasurer must pay the excess less any cost of the auction to the owner of the property so sold or to his or her legal representative.

(e) If necessary to distraint any standing timber owned separately from the ownership of the land upon which the same may stand, or any fish trap, pound net, reef net, set net, or drag seine fishing location, or any other personal property as the treasurer determines to be incapable or reasonably impracticable of manual delivery, it is deemed to have been distrained and taken into possession when the treasurer has, at least thirty days before the date fixed for the sale

thereof, filed with the auditor of the county wherein the property is located a notice in writing reciting that the treasurer has distrained the property. The notice must describe the property, give the name of the owner or reputed owner, the amount of the tax due, with interest, and the time and place of sale. A copy of the notice must also be sent to the owner or reputed owner at his or her last known address, by registered letter at least thirty days prior to the date of sale.

(f) If the county treasurer has reasonable grounds to believe that any personal property, including mobile homes, manufactured homes, or park model trailers, upon which taxes have been levied, but not paid, is about to be removed from the county where the property has been assessed, or is about to be destroyed, sold, or disposed of, the county treasurer may demand the taxes, without the notice provided for in this section, and if necessary distrain sufficient goods and chattels to pay the same.

NEW SECTION

Waiver of interest and penalties for qualified taxpayers subject to mobile home and manufactured home distraint.

(4) **The** county treasurer must waive outstanding interest and penalties on delinquent taxes due from a title owner if the property is subject to an action for distraint under this section and the following requirements are met:

(a) The title owner is income-qualified under 84.36.381 (5) (a), as verified by the county assessor;

(b) The title owner occupies the property as their principal place of residence;

(c) The title owner or agent is paying the delinquent base taxes owed on the year(s) the outstanding interest and penalties are being waived and submits a complete application at least fourteen days prior to recording of distraint documents; and

(d) The title owner has not previously received a waiver on the property as provided under this section.

(5) As an alternative to the sale procedure specified in this section, the county treasurer may conduct a public auction sale by electronic media pursuant to RCW [36.16.145](#).