

Weekly Legislative Update: **Criminal Justice**

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Bills Needing Action This Week

Please read Bill Descriptions below to see the latest status of other bills.

Sign in “PRO” for the following bills this week:

HB 1087/SB 5135 Ending Long-Term Solitary Confinement

These bills recognize that long-term solitary confinement constitutes torture under international law and causes severe psychological trauma. They state that people who are incarcerated may not be placed in solitary confinement except for emergencies, medical isolation, or when requested by the person who is incarcerated. They limit the number of days that people can be held in solitary confinement and ban the practice for vulnerable people, such as those with mental or physical disabilities and pregnant people. Substitute HB 1087 passed out of the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee on Jan. 19. SB 5135 is scheduled for public hearing Jan. 23 at 10:30 am in the Senate Human Services Committee.

Sign in PRO on 5135 before Monday, Jan. 23 at 9:30 am

HB 1025 Private Right of Action for People Harmed by Peace Officers

This bill authorizes a private right of action for violations of the state Constitution or state law by peace officers—the state equivalent of a federal §1983 action. It does not allow peace officers to rely on the qualified immunity defense to avoid liability—i.e., it is not a defense that the law was not “clearly established” with respect to the acts or omissions at issue. It is scheduled for public hearing Jan. 25 at 8:00 am in the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee.

Sign in PRO before Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7:00 am

HB 1324 Eliminating juvenile offenses from offender scores

This bill eliminates juvenile offenses from offender scores used to determine sentencing ranges for crimes. It is scheduled for public hearing Jan. 23 at 1:30 pm in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee.

Sign in PRO before Monday, Jan. 23 at 12:30 pm

HB 1445 Attorney General Investigations and Reform

This bill gives the Attorney General's Office the authority to investigate law enforcement and local corrections agencies that have engaged in systemic violations of the Washington constitution or state laws. It is scheduled for public hearing Jan. 25 at 8:00 am in the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee.

[Sign in PRO](#) before **Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7:00 am**

Sign in **"CON"** for the following bill this week:

SB 5361 Encouraging Local Governments to Hire More Police Officers

This bill authorizes cities and counties to impose additional sales and use taxes to hire more law enforcement officers. It does not prioritize alternative responses and ignores data showing a lack of correlation between crime rates and the number of police officers. It is scheduled for public hearing Jan. 23 at 10:30 am and executive Session Jan. 26 at 8:00 am in the Senate Law & Justice Committee.

[Sign in CON](#) before **Monday, Jan. 23 at 9:30 am**

Bill Descriptions

Priority Bills We Support:

HB 1024 Real Labor Real Wages Act

This bill ensures that people who are incarcerated are paid a fair wage for the labor they perform and ensures that people are not required to pay for the cost of incarceration. It also increases the amount of earnings that will be placed in a savings account for each incarcerated person. It passed out of the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee on Jan. 19.

HB 1174 Ensuring Access for Voters in Jails

This bill requires county auditors to create a jail voting plan for each jail in the county and requires jails to provide access to voting materials to people in jail in accordance with the voting plan. It also mandates that jails allow election officials to enter the jails at least 30 days before each primary and general election to provide voter registration outreach and education. The bill is scheduled for executive session Jan. 25 at 1:30 pm in the House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee.

SB 5451/HB 1325 Allowing Review of Long Sentences for Crimes Committed Before Age 25

Currently, people who committed crimes before age 18 can have lengthy sentences reviewed. This bill would increase the age from 18 to 25, recognizing that brain science shows that our brains do not become fully developed until age 25. SB 5451 was referred to the Senate Law &

Justice Committee on Jan. 18. HB 1325 was referred to the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee on Jan. 16.

Priority Bills We Oppose:

SB 5352/HB 1363 Rolling Back Limitations on Vehicular Pursuits

These bills would roll back the common-sense 2021 limitations on vehicular pursuits that have reduced deaths and made our communities safer. SB 5352 was referred to the Senate Law & Justice Committee on Jan. 13. HB 1363 was referred to the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee on Jan. 16.

Other Bills We Support:

SB 5046 Expands Postconviction Access to Counsel

This bill expands the circumstances in which counsel may be appointed at state expense to someone who has been convicted and requires the Office of Public Defense to study the barriers to providing postconviction counsel to indigent people. It passed out of the Senate Law & Justice Committee on Jan. 19 and has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

SB 5101 Extraordinary Medical Placement for Incarcerated Individuals

This bill expands eligibility criteria and modifies electronic monitoring requirements for individuals granted extraordinary medical placement by DOC. It is scheduled for executive session Jan. 26 at 8:00 am in the Senate Human Services Committee.

SB 5128 Increasing Jury Diversity

This bill requires collection of data on juror demographics and provides additional compensation for jurors who qualify for certain low-income programs. The bill passed out of the Senate Law & Justice Committee on Jan. 12 and has been referred to the Ways & Means Committee.

SB 5383/HB 1428 Banning Jaywalking

These bills address the longtime racial bias in enforcement of jaywalking laws and allow pedestrians to cross a roadway at any point as long as it's reasonably safe to do so. SB 5383 was referred to the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan. 16. HB 1428 was referred to the House Transportation Committee on Jan. 18.

HB 1080 Release of Body Camera Recordings

This bill authorizes the release of unredacted body camera footage, subject to potential restrictions on use and prohibits law enforcement and corrections agencies from charging for

unredacted recordings. An executive session is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 10:30 am in the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee.

HB 1089 Supporting Adults with Lived Experience of Sex Trafficking

This bill provides for creation of a network of healing, support, and transition services for adults with lived experience of sex trafficking, tailored to the self-determined needs of each individual. It is scheduled for executive session Jan. 27 at 8:00 am in the House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning Committee.

HB 1114 Expanding Membership of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission

This bill expands membership on the sentencing guidelines commission for 20 to 24 and ensures that more communities and areas of expertise are represented on the commission. It is scheduled for executive session Jan. 26 at 8:00 am in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee.

HB 1134 Implementing the 988 System

This bill helps to implement and advertise the new 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention system. It had a hearing Jan. 17 in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee.

HB 1169 Legal Financial Obligations

This bill builds upon HB 1412 passed last year and allows for the waiver of certain legal financial obligations owed by defendants who have been convicted. An executive session is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 10:30 am in the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee.

HB 1177 Creating a Cold Case Investigations Unit for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

This bill creates the Cold Case Investigations Unit within the Attorney General's Office to assist law enforcement agencies with solving cold cases involving missing and murdered indigenous people. It is scheduled for executive session Jan. 26 at 8:00 am in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee.

How You Can Be Involved

- Read and take action through the [LWVWA Legislative Newsletter](#) that comes out each week during the legislative session

- Join the LWVWA Criminal Justice Action group by emailing Heather Kelly at hkelly@lwvwa.org or Deb Carstens at dcarstens@lwvwa.org. We meet on the third Monday of the month at 3:00 pm, and our next meeting is Feb. 20.