



DMCMA Legislative Committee 2025 Report

2025 SESSION RECAP

The 105-day session ended with sine die on April 27, 2025. More than 2000 bills were introduced at the start, and more than 400 bills were passed through this long session. With the most attention turned toward the predicted budget shortfall, only a handful of bills passed forward that will have anything more than minor impacts to courts of limited jurisdiction. As is typical of most legislative session, bills initially are introduced with larger implications, but as they work through the process they are trimmed down after receiving feedback from the public and stakeholders. For example, HB 1174 (regarding court interpreters) initially required the court to provide interpreter services for all court mandated classes. However, as the legislative body was apprised of the large financial impacts this would place on the court system, the language was removed.

And then there are bills that just do not have enough support or steam in the session to go forward but are likely to reemerge in the next session. This year the proposal to reduce the legal alcohol limit to .08 to .05 was again unable to move forward. Still other new ideas did not come to fruition, but the session was an opportunity to gauge interest and understand opposition. For instance, HB 1426 proposed creating a new type of civil protection order that could be used as a preventative measure to restrain individuals from driving a motor vehicle if believed to be a risk to themselves or others while under the influence of alcohol. The bill is likely to return and address the due process concerns that were raised.

Listed below are the bills that have been signed into law and bills that have successfully passed through the legislative session and are sitting on the governor desk awaiting signature.

SIGNED BILLS

HB 1007 – Concerning requisites of notice in small claims actions

- Updates the notice of small claim to state that a failure to appear may result in a default judgement against the defendant.
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

HB 1112 – Judge pro tempore/residency

- Removes city residency requirement for judges pro tempore in municipal courts in cities with a population greater than 400,000 inhabitants
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

HB 1205 – Prohibiting the knowing distribution of a forged digital likeness

- Expands the conduct that constitutes Criminal Impersonation in the second degree to include when a person:
 - knowingly distributes a forged digital likeness of another person as a genuine visual representation or audio recording with intent to defraud, harass, threaten, or intimidate another or for any other unlawful purpose; and
 - knows or reasonably should know that the forged digital likeness is not genuine
- Criminal Impersonation in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum penalty of 364 days in jail, a \$5,000 fine, or both as determined by the court
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

E2SHB 1174 – Concerning court interpreters

- Credentialed interpreters must be appointed in all legal proceedings involving persons with limited English proficiency (LEP), unless good cause is found on the record for appointing a noncredentialed interpreter
- Revises provisions governing credentialing of court interpreters and authorizes AOC to create different credentials and provide guidance
- Requests to waive the right to an interpreter must be made on the record. A waiver does not preclude a LEP individual from exercising their right to an interpreter at a later date
- Courts are required to submit a language access plan (LAP) to AOC every two years. Courts will be allowed to use AOC templates and AOC is required to provide technical assistance
- Revises provisions governing payment of interpreter costs by limiting when a LEP individual is responsible for costs of an interpreter and requiring AOC to reimburse state courts for language access services and ½ the payment of interpreter costs for legal proceedings unless a higher reimbursement rate is established in the omnibus budget
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

SHB 1209 – Regulating the transfer of sodium nitrate

- Prohibits the sale or transfer of products containing sodium nitrite in a concentration greater than 10 percent, except to a verified commercial business or institution requiring the use of the products
- Establishes label notice requirements; requires records; creates civil penalties; authorizes causes of action; specifies recoverable fees, costs, and damages; specifies that a violation is also a Consumer Protection Act violation; and names the law Tyler's Law
- A seller or other covered entity that violates the new requirements is subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for the first violation, and a civil penalty of no more than \$1 million for a second or subsequent violation
- Effective Date: 04/07/2025
- [Session Law](#)

SHB 1244 – Driver training alternative

- Individuals may complete a safe driving course, approved by the Department of Licensing (DOL), any time after provided notice of pending driver's license suspension for three or more moving violations in a one-year period or four or more moving violations in a two-year period
- DOL required to terminate the 60-day license suspension early upon notification of safe course completion, payment of licensing fees, and applicable requirements related to proof of automobile insurance.
- Effective Date: 04/01/2026
- [Session Law](#)

SHB 1325 – Enforcement options for certain fish and wildlife violations

- Classifies certain hunting, firearms, fishing guide, and hydraulic code violations as natural resource infractions
- Classifies trafficking of a certain amount of seaweed as unlawful trafficking in fish, shellfish, or wildlife in the second degree
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

HB 1361 – Updating process service requirements

- Revises service of process requirements for claims against corporations and companies by modifying terms and allowing service on represented entities in accordance with the Washington Uniform Business Organizations Code
- Repeals provisions governing service of process on corporations without an officer in Washington
- Revises service of process requirements for claims against nonresident motorists by reformatting the governing section and modifying provisions that authorize substitute service on the Secretary of State
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

SB 5021 – Concerning retention of court exhibits

- The county clerk of the superior court may apply for an order to dispose of exhibits five years after the entry of final judgment, reduced from six years
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

ESB 5065 - Prohibiting the use of certain animals in traveling animal acts

- The following animals prohibited from being used in traveling animal acts before live audiences: elephants, bears, nonhuman primates, felines (excluding cats), and hybrids of these species
- Allowing a prohibited animal to perform in traveling animal act is punishable as a gross misdemeanor and is subject to a term of imprisonment in the county jail for up to 364 days or a fine of up to \$5,000, or both as determined by the court
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

SB 5074 – Concerning payment of seed contracts

- Establishes standards, terms, and processes for turf seed grass production and purchase contracts
- In any action to recover damages for breach of contract, if the court finds that a party to the contract failed to act in good faith, the court may award the prevailing party court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

ESSB 5202 – Civil protection orders

- All superior courts and limited jurisdiction courts must notify a petitioner 90 days before the expiration of a protection order
- A protected person may file a motion to terminate or modify an ex parte temporary protection order without notice to the respondent if the respondent has not yet been served
- Submitted confidential documents accompanying protection order petitions are to be used by courts, law enforcement, and prosecutor's offices to identify parties; serve the respondent; notify victims or protected person; and to fulfill other identification, service, enforcement, and notification requirements
- If a minor, who reaches the age of 18 while a protection order is effect, may petition for a renewal of the order as the petitioner
- If a minor, who reaches the age of 18 and previously was protected by an order, may petition for renewal of the protection order up to one year from the date of the order expiration
- Any full or temporary protection orders issued after 12/31/2025, and any modifications to such orders, must be typewritten except for the signature of the issuing judge or court commissioner
- Expands unlawful possession of a firearm in the first degree to include instances where a person who owns, accesses, and possesses any untraceable or undetectable firearm during any time the person is subject to a protection order, no-contact order, or restraining order issued by a court which meets specified requirements
- Effective Date: 07/27/2025
- [Session Law](#)

BILLS AWAITING GOVERNOR SIGNATURE

E2SHB 1163 – Concerning firearm purchases

- Provides that a dealer may not transfer a firearm to a purchaser or transferee unless the person has a valid permit to purchase firearms, and establishes requirements for the application, issuance, and revocation of permits to purchase firearms
- Requires proof of completion of required firearms safety training in order to obtain a permit to purchase firearms or a concealed pistol license, updates training program components, and requires certification of training programs
- Specifies the circumstances where the transfer of a firearm may be delayed
- Applies application, transfer record, and recordkeeping requirements to all firearms transfers
- Establishes reporting requirements relating to permits to purchase firearms and concealed pistol licenses
- Effective Date:

HB 1219 – Relating to the interbranch advisory committee

- Extends the expiration date for the Interbranch Advisory Committee to January 1, 2031
- Increases the number of members on the Committee from the judicial branch from eight to nine members
- Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide staff support for the committee
- Effective Date:

HB 1293 – Concerning litter

- Littering in an amount less than or equal to 1 cubic foot is raised to a class 2 civil infraction, with a base penalty of \$125. This penalty is in addition to the base penalty of \$93 issued for throwing or dropping material onto state highways
- Effective Date:

2SHB 1359 – Criminal insanity and competency to stand trial

- Establishes a task force to review and make recommended changes to laws related to criminal insanity and competency to stand trial
- Recodifies sections of law relating to criminal insanity and competency to stand trial under topical subject headings
- Effective Date:

E2SHB 1440 – Concerning seizure and forfeiture procedures/reporting

- Establishes a new chapter governing civil asset forfeiture under laws relating to specified criminal activity, and establishes standard procedures and requirements for seizure and forfeiture proceedings
- Amends civil asset forfeiture provisions under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act to conform to requirements under the new civil asset forfeiture chapter
- Provides that the Service Members' Civil Relief Act applies to civil asset forfeiture proceedings
- Effective Date:

SHB 1460 – Concerning protection order hope cards

- Allows for individuals to request for a hope card at the court location at the time a protection order has been entered
- AOC must ensure that information required on Hope cards is provided to each court which includes consistent court codes, data entry, and reporting mechanisms
- Hope cards must be in a scannable electronic format and, if the card issuer has the means and information available, include petition attachments, protections and restraints ordered, and violations of the order
- Removes the requirement of physical description of the respondent and details of the order. Adds the requirement to include any court orders prohibiting access, custody/control, possessing, purchasing, or attempt to purchase firearms, concealed pistols, or other dangerous weapons
- Effective Date:

HB 1573 – Oath of Office timing

- Modifies the time period for when a person elected to local office may take the oath of office, authorizing the oath to be taken between the date of certification of the election and the day before the term of office begins
- Previously was permitted up to 10 days before the scheduled date of assuming office or at the last regular meeting of the governing body of the county, city, town held before the winner assumed office
- Effective Date:

ESHB 1596 – Concerning accountability for persons for speeding

- An intelligent speed assistance (ISA) device is required to limit the operation of a motor vehicle to no more than the speed limit if:
 - If a person receives either an occupational driver's license or a temporary restricted driver's license after having had regular driving license suspended for either accumulation of moving violations (and at least one is for excessive speeding) or for conviction of Reckless Driving
 - During a probationary period following reinstatement of a regular driver's license suspended for reasons above
 - Pursuant to a court order, as a condition of pre-trial release or of post-conviction probation
- A person required to use an ISA device must pay for the costs of installing, removing, and leasing the device, and a additional fee of \$21 per month
- Tampering with or directing another person to tamper with an ISA device is a gross misdemeanor
- Effective Date:

HB 1848 – Regarding traumatic brain injuries

- Increases the traffic infraction fee that is deposited in the Traumatic Brain Injury Account (Account) from \$5 to \$10 per infraction
- Requires that at least 30 percent of the annual expenditure from the Account be used exclusively for in-person support groups for individuals with a traumatic brain injury and their families, programs designed for social integration, peer-to-peer mentoring, and equitable geographic access to programs
- Effective Date:

ESHB 1878 – Improving young driver safety

- Expands driver training education requirements to obtain a driver's license to individuals between the ages of 18 and 21, with staggered implementation between January 1, 2027, and January 1, 2030
- Expires every initial driver's license for a person under the age of 21 on the latter of the driver's license holder's twenty-first birthday or the driver's license holder's second birthdate after driver's license issuance, requiring the driver's license holder to complete a driver training education refresher course before renewal may occur
- Mandates that drivers under the age of 25 with an initial driver's license found to have committed a traffic infraction for a moving violation on two occasions to complete specified courses
- Requires an applicant for an initial driver's license under the age of 25 to pass an online course on work zone and first responder safety until, beginning January 1, 2031, the driver training education course curriculum is required to incorporate this topic
- Requires the Department of Licensing to establish a program to provide vouchers to cover the average cost of driver training education courses for qualifying drivers who reside in low-income households, subject to appropriations
- Raises the fee to obtain a driver's instruction permit by \$10, the driver's license exam fee by \$15, and the license service fee by 25 cents, and restricts use of this revenue to expanding and improving driver's education programs and activities
- Effective Date:

E2SSB 5217 – Expanding pregnancy-related accommodations

- A person who is breastfeeding or expressing breast milk for an infant under 24 months old may request to delay or be excused from jury service if they attest that they are unable to serve for this reason
- Court is required to grant this request
- Effective Date:

E2SSB 5390 – Concerning access to recreation sites or lands

- The cost of a Discover Pass is increased from \$30 to \$45
- A Lifetime Disabled Veteran Pass is added to the list of passes which may be displayed on the front windshield or in a prominent location of a vehicle operating on or parking at any recreation site or lands
- Proof of obtaining a Lifetime Disabled Veteran Pass may be provided as an alternative to obtaining a Discover Pass, for an individual to be eligible for the reduced penalty rate of \$59
- Effective Date:

E2SSB 5651 – Concerning exemptions from garnishment

- The amount of personal property in financial accounts and securities that is automatically protected from execution, attachment, and garnishment in nonbankruptcy proceedings for consumer debt is increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000
- Starting July 1, 2027, the amounts of this personal property exemption are to be adjusted and published every three years by the Department of Revenue
- Effective Date:

SB 5716 – Transit conduct / Ferries

- Expands unlawful transit conduct to apply to the Washington State Ferries stations and vehicles and making violations subject to a misdemeanor crime
- Effective Date:

E2SSB 5745 – Legal representation under the involuntary treatment act

- Appointed counsel services shall be administered by the county where a person is detained under the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA), either directly or by contracting for that representation
- A county may elect to contract with OPD for appointed counsel services on the county's behalf for individuals being detained in a state facility
- The Health Care Authority (HCA) must notify a county within thirty (30) days of receiving notice that OPD cannot provide appointed counsel. If notification is received the county is required to appoint counsel directly or contract for representation
- Effective Date:

DMCMA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patrick Wells (King County District Court) – Committee Chair

Maryam Olson (Olympia Municipal Court) – Committee Co-Chair

Sherri Hansen (Spokane County District Court)

Melissa Gibbs (Chelan County District Court)

Kristina Howard (Shelton Municipal Court)

Special thanks to:

Angie Autry (Administrative Office of the Courts)

Stephanie Oyler (Administrative Office of the Courts)