



STATE OF WASHINGTON

SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

Jefferson Building, PO Box 43124 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3124 • (360) 688-8511

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2025 12:00pm – 1:00pm

1500 Jefferson Building

Olympia, WA 98516

And Zoom

Members Present:

Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair
Hon. Sharonda Amamilo
Greg Link (proxy: Ramona Brandes)
Secretary Tim Lang
Ramona Brandes
Hon. Karen Donohue (proxy: Judge Wiggs)
Hon. Jeffery Swan
Commissioner Tye Menser
Kecia Rongen
Councilmember Carmen Rivera
Jeremiah Bourgeois (proxy: Ramona Brandes)
Hon. Josephine Wiggs
Norrie Gregoire
Chief Brian Smith/Chief Kal Fuller
Amy Anselmi
Rochelle Cleland
Dr. Esther Matthews
Jon Tunheim

Members Absent:

Rep. Tarra Simmons
Jennifer Redman
Senator Claire Wilson
Hon. Veronica Galván
Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry

Guests:

Katherine Hurley, King County
Dept of Public Defense
Kimberly Gordon, Judicial Second
Look Coalition Steering
Committee

Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer
Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson, PSPRC
Whitney Hunt, SOPB

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judge Saint Clair called the meeting to order.

II. DRAFT LEGISLATIVE BILLS

HB 1178 - Concerning sentencing enhancements

Keri-Anne briefed members on the bill and the positions the SGC took on similar bills in previous legislative sessions.

Ramona Brandes added that unlike last year's bill, this bill does not include other enhancements, such as school zones, which created controversy last year.

MOTION #25-11: SUPPORT HB 1178

MOVED: Ramona Brandes
SECONDED: Dr. Matthews
PASSED: Y – 12; N - 1
ABSTAIN: Amy Anselmi, Secretary Lang

HB 1125 - Providing judicial discretion to modify sentences in the interests of justice.

Keri-Anne noted that this bill was supported by the SGC last year, with Judge Amamilo testifying on behalf of the SGC. The SGC also submitted a letter of support to the Legislature. Kimberly Gordon was invited to speak to the members.

Kimberly Gordon noted that there have been two significant amendments from the last bill that had been brought to the Legislature. The first addressed concerns about workload by the counties, prosecutors and the courts. A tiered triage plan was created for establishing eligibility to petition over seven years. Also, the Office of Public Defense has contracted with private attorneys who are experienced in resentencing and are willing to take on these cases. The second is that the bill provides services for victims and survivors. Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson presented data on estimated eligible individuals that she received from the Office of Public Defense.

MOTION #25-12: SUPPORT HB 1125

MOVED: Ramona Brandes
SECONDED: Dr. Matthews
PASSED: Y – 9; N - 4
ABSTAIN: Amy Anselmi, Secretary Lang, Norrie Gregoire

HB 1166 - Establishing the providing effective education for reentry success act.

Dr. Matthews asked Secretary Lang if DOC had any concerns about implementation of this bill. Secretary Lang replied that DOC has concerns around the fiscal impact, the staffing necessary to accommodate it, as well as safety and security concerns associated with having that sort of equipment available.

MOTION #25-13: SUPPORT HB 1166

MOVED: Chief Smith
SECONDED: Judge Wiggs
PASSED: Y – 14; N - 0
ABSTAIN: Amy Anselmi, Secretary Lang, Kecia Rongen

HB 1111/SB 5266 - Concerning the indeterminate sentence review board.

Katie Hurley was invited to provide a brief review of the bill.

Ramona Brandes remarked that this could help alleviate some of the overcrowding situation and that the SGC has been discussing this bill extensively.

MOTION #25-14: SUPPORT HB 1111/SB 5266

MOVED: Ramona Brandes
SECONDED: Councilmember Rivera
PASSED: Y – 10; N - 1
ABSTAIN: Amy Anselmi, Secretary Lang, Kecia Rongen, Jon Tunheim,
Rochelle Cleland

HB 1152 - Enhancing public safety by establishing secure storage requirements for firearms in vehicles and residences.

Ramona Brandes proffered that this bill is criminalizing negligent behavior and that making the offense as an unranked class C felony is commensurate with a gross misdemeanor and seems appropriate. Dr. Knoth-Peterson added that Unsafe Storage of a Firearm 2 is a gross misdemeanor. Dr. Knoth-Peterson observed that the new offenses in Section 1 have nearly identical language as found in Section 4 (RCW 9.41.360). She went on to note that it seems the bill is expanding the definition of Unsafe Storage but not creating new offenses. Ramona Brandes suggested that the bill should amend the current statute to fit with the new definitions instead of creating a new crime that conflicts with existing language.

MOTION #25-15: OPPOSE HB 1152 BECAUSE THE BILL IS CONFUSING AND MAY BE ADDRESSING CURRENT OFFENSES FOUND UNDER RCW 9.41.360

MOVED: Judge Swan
SECONDED: Ramona Brandes
PASSED: Y – 8; N - 1
ABSTAIN: Amy Anselmi, Secretary Lang, Kecia Rongen, Jon Tunheim,
Rochelle Cleland, Norrie Gregoire, Judge Wiggs

SB 5152 - Concerning state employee access to peer-reviewed journals.

Keri-Anne briefed the bill and provided background on access issues she has experienced. Since the SGC is asked to advise the Legislature and governor, the need for access to these articles and journals is crucial. Dr. Matthews agreed and said that the state can't support evidence-based policies if people aren't provided access to that evidence. Jon Tunheim expressed surprise that this access is not available.

MOTION #25-16: SUPPORT HB 5152

MOVED: Judge Saint Clair
SECONDED: Dr. Matthews
PASSED: Y – 13; N - 0
ABSTAIN: Amy Anselmi, Secretary Lang, Kecia Rongen

Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson reminded members they can request racial and ethnic impact statements on bills where it would be helpful.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present at the end of the meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION



3/14/2025

Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair (Ret), Chair

Date