



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

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

### **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 7, 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. Jeffery Swan  
Commissioner Tye Menser  
Kecia Rongen  
Councilmember Carmen Rivera  
Jeremiah Bourgeois  
Hon. Josephine Wiggs  
Chief Brian Smith (proxy: Chief Fuller)  
Amy Anselmi  
Dr. Esther Matthews (proxy: Ramona Brandes)  
Jon Tunheim  
Hon. Veronica Galván  
Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry

#### Members Absent:

Rep. Tarra Simmons  
Jennifer Redman  
Senator Claire Wilson  
Hon. Karen Donohue  
Rochelle Cleland  
Norrie Gregoire

#### Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer  
Whitney Hunt, SOPB

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Judge Saint Clair called the meeting to order.

### **II. DRAFT LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

HB 1139 - Promoting public safety and deterring unlawful firearm possession by increasing criminal penalties for unlawful possession of a firearm.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the bill and provided additional information on similarly ranked offenses, other offenses defined as violent, and current scoring rules for UPFA.

Ramona Brandes expressed several concerns about the bill. First, she thought it was problematic to add offenses that are inherently nonviolent to the list of violent offenses, noting that the act of possessing a firearm is not a violent offense. Second, she did not support adding juvenile scoring points for UPFA. And third, Drive-by Shooting, which is ranked at SL 8, is related to the use of a firearm and to place simply possessing a firearm at the same rank she believed to be disproportionate.

Jeremiah Bourgeois agreed and remarked that if someone is considered a ‘violent’ offender it should be because they actually committed a violent offense not because they may have the potential to commit a violent offense.

Chief Smith commented that the behavior of carrying the gun is what the bill is addressing. The people who are committing crimes with guns are literally the people who should not be carrying guns. While he understands the other comments, he is supportive of holding people accountable and discouraging this behavior.

Some members were interested in learning more about the rationale behind the bill, whether it was meant to target youth who possess guns, and what was behind the desire to increase the seriousness levels.

There were a few members who expressed concern about the bill making a change that would mandate law enforcement to make arrests.

**MOTION #25-24: OPPOSE HB 1139**

**MOVED:** Jeremiah Bourgeois

**SECONDED:** Ramona Brandes

**PASSED:** Y – 11; N - 2

**ABSTAIN:** Secretary Lang, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kecia Rongen, Jon Tunheim

HB 1276 - Concerning organized retail theft.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the bill.

Judge Wiggs observed that Organized Retail Theft is already ranked at a higher seriousness level than Theft 1 because of the added circumstance related to the offense, even though the same dollar values apply. Jon Tunheim replied that there is such a wide range of culpability for theft offenses that he thought that is what this bill is meant to address. He added that retail theft is a significant issue for retailers across the state and he thought this is meant to distinguish the more organized organizations and the higher level thefts.

Ramona Brandes pointed out that there is an aggravating factor that already addresses major economic offense or series of offenses.

**MOTION #25-25: OPPOSE HB 1276**

**MOVED:** Judge Wiggs  
**SECONDED:** Ramona Brandes  
**PASSED:** Y – 10; N - 1  
**ABSTAIN:** Secretary Lang, Kecia Rongen, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry,  
Commissioner Menser

HB 1668 - Concerning community custody.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the changes proposed in the bill as it relates to the SGC. She proffered that Escape 1 is a class B offense ranked at SL 4 and Escape 2 is a class C offense ranked at SL 3. She noted that since Escape from Community Custody is a class C offense, it would reach its statutory maximum of 60 months before reaching criminal history score 9.

Ramona observed that escape from community custody can be as minor as not reporting on time while Escape 1 is actually escaping from a detention facility.

**MOTION #25-26: OPPOSE HB 1668**

**MOVED:** Ramona Brandes  
**SECONDED:** Jeremiah Bourgeois  
**PASSED:** Y – 12; N - 1  
**ABSTAIN:** Secretary Lang, Kecia Rongen, Jon Tunheim, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry

**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**



4/11/25

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Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair (Ret), Chair

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Date