



STATE OF WASHINGTON

SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2025 12:00pm – 1:00pm

1500 Jefferson Building

Olympia, WA 98516

And Zoom

Members Present:

Hon. Jeffery Swan, Acting Chair
Greg Link
Secretary Tim Lang (proxy: Kristi Knudsen)
Ramona Brandes
Kecia Rongen
Councilmember Carmen Rivera
Jeremiah Bourgeois
Chief Brian Smith/Chief Fuller
Amy Anselmi
Dr. Esther Matthews
Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry
Rochelle Cleland
Norrie Gregoire (proxy: Chief Smith/Fuller)

Members Absent:

Rep. Tarra Simmons
Jennifer Redman
Senator Claire Wilson
Hon. Karen Donohue
Hon. Sharonda Amamilo
Hon. Veronica Galván
Commissioner Tye Menser
Hon. Josephine Wiggs
Jon Tunheim
Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair

Staff:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Judge Swan called the meeting to order.

Keri-Anne informed members of the recent discussion she and Judge Saint Clair had with the Governor's Policy Office about testifying on legislative bills and laid out the new process that will be in place.

II. DRAFT LEGISLATIVE BILLS

SSB 5360 – Concerning environmental crimes.

Keri-Anne reminded members of the tabled motion on SSB 5360 and that additional information had been requested at the last meeting. She briefed members on the information she found.

Ramona Brandes stated that this bill was beyond her experience which made it difficult to formulate any comprehensive position, plus there wasn't anything from the testimony that made her feel that the SGC needed to take a position on the ranking of the crimes.

MOTION #25-32: NO POSITION ON SSB 5360

MOVED: Ramona Brandes

SECONDED: Jeremiah Bourgeois

PASSED: Y – 9; N - 0

ABSTAIN: Kristi Knudsen, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kecia Rongen, Amy Anselmi

SSB 5278 - Concerning the management of individuals who are placed in juvenile rehabilitation institutions.

Dr. Matthews inquired if the SGC had taken a position on SB 5278. Keri-Anne reported that the SGC voted to take the position of CON on 1/31/25. Dr. Matthews suggested it may be worth the SGC revisiting its position on the bill as substantial changes had been made since the original vote. Members discussed some of the recent amendments.

Keri-Anne informed members that, because of the rules about special meetings, action can be taken only on items that are on the agenda. This bill was not on the agenda because the SGC has already voted on it. Acting Chair Judge Swan suggested adding it to the next meeting's agenda.

HB 1917 – Concerning management of individuals who are placed in juvenile rehabilitation institutions.

Councilmember Rivera said she had several concerns about parts of this bill. Dr. Matthews offered some information she had heard during the bill's executive session and stated it is very similar to the original SB 5278. She suggested the SGC take a position now and have a more robust discussion along with the other juvenile population management bills later. Ramona Brandes added that Katie Hurley told her that Katie's organization was opposed to this bill as there were nuances that were problematic regarding moving youth to DOC, exactly the issues that other members raised.

MOTION #25-33: OPPOSE HB 1917

MOVED: Dr. Matthews

SECONDED: Ramona Brandes

PASSED: Y – 6; N - 0

ABSTAIN: Kristi Knudsen, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kecia Rongen, Chief Fuller/Norrie Gregoire, Roshelle Clelland, Amy Anselmi

HB 1499 Concerning legal financial obligations.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the bill and the status of the bill as of yesterday. Ramona Brandes commented that the bill eliminated the language regarding the requirement for indigence and ability to pay promissory notes and stated that was a big

issue for WDA. She noted that an amendment was recently adopted related to removing provisions related to uncollectable LFOs debt and read that amendment to members.

Dr. Matthews proffered that from a lived experience perspective and a research perspective, LFOs are linked to poor reentry outcomes. Members discussed aspects of the bill.

MOTION #25-34: SUPPORT HB 1499

MOVED: Ramona Brandes

SECONDED: Dr. Matthews

PASSED: Y – 5; N - 2

ABSTAIN: Kristi Knudsen, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kecia Rongen, Judge Swan

SSB 5005 - Concerning the city, county, and regional jail system in WA state.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the bill and inquired if it was something they wished to discuss. Ramona Brandes suggested that conditions of confinement fall within the SGC's purview and she supported the bill.

MOTION #25-35: SUPPORT SSB 5005

MOVED: Ramona Brandes

SECONDED: Councilmember Rivera

PASSED: Y – 6; N - 2

ABSTAIN: Kristi Knudsen, Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kecia Rongen

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



6/13/25

Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair (Ret), Chair

Date