

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Criminal Justice**

Issue Team Chair: Heather Kelly

Contact: [hkelly@lwwwa.org](mailto:hkelly@lwwwa.org)

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### **Bills Needing Action This Week**

Please read [Bill Descriptions](#) to see the latest status of other bills.

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

**[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. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 18 at 1:30 pm in the House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning Committee.

**[Sign in PRO](#) before **Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 12:30 pm****

**[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. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 17 at 4:00 pm in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee.

**[Sign in PRO](#) before **Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 3:00 pm****

**[HB 1134](#)**: Implementing the 988 System

This bill helps to implement and advertise the new 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention system. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 17 at 1:30 pm in the House Health Care & Wellness Committee.

**[Sign in PRO](#) before **Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 12:30 pm****

**[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. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 18 at 8:00 am in the House Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee, and the bill is scheduled for executive session Jan. 20 at 10:30 am.

**[Sign in PRO](#) before **Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7:00 am****

**[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. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 17 at 4:00 pm in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee.

**[Sign in PRO](#) before Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 3:00 pm**

**[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. A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 19 at 8:00 am in the Senate Human Services Committee.

**[Sign in PRO](#) before Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7:00 am**

You may express support for bills in hearings with the online process. Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the “Organization” box blank. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.

## Bill Descriptions

### Priority Bills

**[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. **The bill is scheduled for executive session on Jan. 19 at 8:00 am in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee.**

**[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. **The bill has been referred to the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee.**

**[HB 1087](#)**: Ending Long-Term Solitary Confinement

This bill recognizes that long-term solitary confinement constitutes torture under international law and causes severe psychological trauma. It states 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. People cannot be held in solitary confinement for more than 15 consecutive days or 45 days total during a calendar year. And vulnerable people, such as those with mental or physical disabilities and pregnant people, cannot be held in solitary confinement. **The bill is scheduled for executive session on Jan. 19 at 8:00 am in the House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry Committee.**

### **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. 18 at 1:30 pm in the House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee.**

## **Other Bills We Support**

### **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. The bill is scheduled for executive session on Jan. 20 at 10:30 am in the House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee, but no action was taken.

### **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. The bill is scheduled for executive session Jan. 19 at 8:00 am in the Senate Law & Justice 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.

## **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 [hkelly@lwvwa.org](mailto:hkelly@lwvwa.org) or [dcarstens@lwvwa.org](mailto:dcarstens@lwvwa.org).

**We meet on the third Monday of the month at 3:00 pm, and our next meeting is Jan. 16.**