

Council Agenda Bill

AB Number

AB25-122

Agenda Bill Information

Title*

Resolution Adopting New Indigent Defense Standards

Action*

Motion

Council Agenda Section

Committee Report

Council Meeting Date*

12/08/2025

Staff Member

Gary Horejsi

Department*

Police

Committee

Public Safety

Committee Date

12/01/2025

Exhibits

Packet Attachments - if any

Exhibit A - Order 25700-A-1644.pdf

262.85KB

Res 1740 Indigent Defense.docx

23.64KB

Summary

Introduction*

Brief summary.

The Washington State Supreme Court by order number 25700-A-1644 on June 9, 2025, adopted "New Standards for Indigent Defense" to be effective January 1, 2026. This requires the City of Snoqualmie to update Indigent Defense Standards.

Proposed Motion

Move to approve Resolution 1740 adopting new standards for Indigent Defense.

Background/Overview*

What was done (legislative history, previous actions, ability to hyperlink)

The City of Snoqualmie adopted [Resolution 1164](#) on June 15, 2012, the standards for Indigent Defense to be effective September 2, 2012. RCW 10.101.030 required each City to adopt public defense standards, establishing as guidance the standards of the Washington State Bar Association – Standards for Indigent Defense Services Approved June 9, 2025.

The Washington State Supreme Court by order number 25700-A-1644 on June 9, 2025, adopted “New Standards for Indigent Defense” to be effective January 1, 2026, and was implemented over a ten-year period. The new standard requires a reduction in caseloads for indigent defense. The caseload standard for each full-time appointed felony attorney for any 12-month period shall be 47 felony case credits; and for each full-time appointed misdemeanor attorney for any 12-month period shall be 120 misdemeanor case credits; and for each full-time appointed attorney for a respondent in civil commitment proceedings for any 12-month period shall be 250 commitment case credits. However, Implementation may be accomplished in a phased approach with an annual reduction of at least 10% of the difference between the current standard and the new standard (as measured on January 1, 2026), until the new standard has been met. Full compliance must occur no later than ten years from January 1, 2026.

Analysis*

The Snoqualmie City Council is requesting repeal of Resolution 1164 and approval of Resolution 1740, adopting the new standards for indigent defense services.

Budgetary Status*

This action has no budgetary implications.

Budget Summary

The adoption of this resolution is not associated with a contract and therefore does not affect the 2025-26 Biennial Budget. However, public defender costs are expected to increase approximately \$57,930 beyond the amounts estimated in the 2025-26 Biennial Budget, due in part to Washington State Supreme Court's Order #25700-A-1644. See AB25-123 for details. This increase is expected regardless of action by Council on this agenda bill.