

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5781 SB	Title: Law student rural PD program	Agency: 056-Office of Public Defense
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.0	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.5
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	450,332	450,332	875,580	875,580
Total \$	0	450,332	450,332	875,580	875,580

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

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Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

SB 5781 amends Chapter 2.70 RCW and, subject to appropriation, directs the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to administer a rural public defense internship program for eligible law students and recent law school graduates in order to increase the future availability of public defense attorneys in rural and underserved areas of Washington State.

Section 2(1) directs OPD to coordinate with law schools to place law students and recent graduates as legal interns with experienced public defense attorneys located in underserved areas and rural areas of the state. Internship periods may be structured to correspond to the academic calendar. Eligible placements for interns include government and non-profit public defense agencies as well as private law firms that contract to provide criminal public defense services.

Section 2(2) provides that contracts established by OPD under this section shall include funding for interns' compensation and housing stipends, and may include partial reimbursement for supervising attorneys' time.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

The Office of Public Defense (OPD) assumes the following expenses for implementation of SB 5781:

1. OPD will hire 1.5 FTEs to administer the rural internship program established by SB 5781: 1 FTE managing attorney and .5 FTE program assistant. The annual salary of a managing attorney is \$124,392, and benefits are calculated at 22%, totaling \$27,366. The annual salary of a .5 program assistant is \$34,536, with benefits at 22% totaling \$15,196. The combined annual salaries total \$158,928, and combined annual benefits total \$52,562. OPD staff salaries and benefits are identified at Expenditure Object A (salaries) & B (benefits), and reflect step increases as currently provided in the state salary schedule.
2. OPD will require one-time start-up costs of \$6,271 for each employee position to cover office equipment, furnishings, subscriptions, software licensing, and other indirect costs. One-time new employee start-up costs are included among other costs in Expenditure Object E (goods & services) for FY25 only.
3. OPD staff will incur travel costs for law school visits to recruit potential interns and for site visits to the rural and underserved intern locations to monitor contract compliance and conduct program evaluation. All travel costs will be paid per SAAM policies. It is estimated that staff travel costs will total \$5,500 per year. Travel costs are identified at Expenditure Object G (travel).
4. OPD will enter into contracts with local internship providers to pay intern compensation, intern housing stipends, and partial reimbursement of supervising attorney time. (A supervising attorney will be a local public defense attorney working at the internship site.) It is anticipated that internships will extend over ten weeks, coinciding with law school summer break. OPD further assumes initial program capacity for 12 legal interns and up to 8 supervising attorneys. (In some locations one supervisor may monitor the work of multiple interns.) However, the following costs may be adjusted based on a different number of participating interns and/or supervisors.

(a). Supervising Attorneys: Eight onsite supervising attorneys will be compensated for spending up to, on average, eight hours per week providing supervision of interns, paid at a rate of \$100 per hour. Internships are expected to last ten weeks. For 8 supervisors x 8 hours/week x 10 weeks x \$100/hr OPD calculates the cost of supervising attorney reimbursement at \$64,000 per year. These costs are included at Expenditure Object N (grants, benefits & client services).

(b). Housing: Interns will be provided approximately \$900 per month for housing stipends. For 12 interns x \$900/month x 3 months OPD calculates the cost of housing stipends at \$32,400. These costs are included at Expenditure Object N (grants, benefits & client services). OPD identified this estimate for housing costs based on county-level data from the MIT Living Wage Calculator <https://livingwage.mit.edu> and the U.S. Census Bureau's One Year ACS 2023 data <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/>

(c). Monthly Compensation for Interns: Interns will be compensated at \$28 per hour, and paid for full-time work over the course of the internships. For 12 interns x \$28/hr x 40 hrs/week x 10 weeks OPD calculates the cost of monthly compensation for interns at \$134,400. These costs are included at Expenditure Object N (grants, benefits & client services). OPD identified this hourly rate for legal interns based on public defense internship compensation paid by King County, which currently administers its own public defense internships.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	0	450,332	450,332	875,580	875,580
Total \$			0	450,332	450,332	875,580	875,580

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		1.5	0.8	1.5	1.5
A-Salaries and Wages		158,928	158,928	317,856	317,856
B-Employee Benefits		42,562	42,562	85,124	85,124
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services		12,542	12,542		
G-Travel		5,500	5,500	11,000	11,000
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services		230,800	230,800	461,600	461,600
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	0	450,332	450,332	875,580	875,580

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Managing Attorney	124,392		1.0	0.5	1.0	1.0
Program Assistant	34,536		0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5
Total FTEs			1.5	0.8	1.5	1.5

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.