
DIGEST

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HB 358 Original

2021 Regular Session

Edmonds

Abstract: Creates the Online Judge Pilot Program in the 24th JDC.

Proposed law authorizes the 24th JDC to establish the Online Judge Pilot Program as an effort to improve access to justice, address the backlog of cases created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and create a more efficient and effective justice system.

Proposed law authorizes each division of the 24th JDC to establish a process to handle any preliminary matter exclusively online.

Proposed law provides that the court may order any civil case to participate in the program, and requires all parties to participate in the Online Judge Pilot Program unless they have been exempted by the court due to an undue hardship.

Proposed law provides for the waiver of oral arguments and referral of all motions and exceptions to the Online Judge Pilot Program, unless the court determines that oral arguments or witness testimony are necessary.

Proposed law provides for procedures regarding how written arguments, motions, and objections are to be handled through the Online Judge Pilot Program. Provides for admissibility and presentation of evidence.

Proposed law provides that all messages related to a hearing held through the Online Judge Pilot Program shall be considered part of the court record and may be used for any purpose after certification by the court reporter. Proposed law provides that any issue discussed during the pretrial conference through the Online Judge Pilot Program may not be used as evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding.

Proposed law provides that every pleading following the original petition, including a pleading or order that sets a court date, shall be served by transmitting an electronic copy to all parties through the Online Judge Pilot Program.

(Adds R.S. 13:621.24.2)