

HB 1307: Concerning the drug offense sentencing grid

The Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) and the Washington Defender Association (WDA) SUPPORT HB 1307 because it reduces the standard sentencing range for low level drug convictions classified as Level 1 offenses to the same standard range that was in effect prior to it elevating 7/1/2018. The reduction of the standard range to the pre-7/1/2018 range only applies to offenders with an offender score of three to five points, and only applies to Level 1 offenses, such as simple possession.

Under the law currently in effect since 7/1/2018, offenders with a score of three to five points face six to eighteen months in custody for Level 1 drug offenses. Under HB 1307 these offenders will once again face six to twelve months in custody.

Reducing the range for these offenses to below one year will also divert a number of minor drug-related offenses from Department of Corrections sentences, and instead keep the cases to be resolved locally where there are any number of more appropriate, cost-saving, and effective sentencing alternatives to incarceration readily in the community.

For more information, contact:

Neil Beaver, (509) 975-9550 or neil.beaver@gmail.com; or

Ramona Brandes, 206-674-4700 Ext 79111 or Ramona.Brandes@kingcounty.gov