

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1059

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*As Passed Legislature*

**Title:** An act relating to personal property exempt from enforcement of judgments.

**Brief Description:** Revising the list of personal property exempt from enforcement of judgments.

**Sponsor(s):** By House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Appelwick, Padden, Ludwig and Orr).

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Judiciary, February 20, 1991, DPS;  
Passed House, March 12, 1991, 93-2;  
Passed Legislature, 93-2.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY**

**Majority Report:** *That Substitute House Bill No. 1059 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.*  
Signed by 18 members: Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Ludwig, Vice Chair; Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Paris, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Belcher; Broback; Forner; Hargrove; Inslee; Locke; R. Meyers; Mielke; H. Myers; Riley; Scott; D. Sommers; Tate; and Vance.

**Staff:** Bill Perry (786-7123).

**Background:** Certain kinds of property are exempt by statute from the remedies creditors normally have in enforcing judgments. Various kinds of personal property are exempt up to specified values.

**Summary of Bill:** General increases are made in the value of personal property that is exempt from judgment. Changes include the following:

- o The maximum exemption for certain wearing apparel, consisting of furs and jewelry, is raised from \$750 to \$1,000.
- o The maximum exemption for private libraries is raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

- o The maximum exemption for household goods is raised from \$1,000 to \$2,300, and a separate exemption of unspecified value for three months' worth of provisions and fuel for "comfortable maintenance" is removed.
- o The maximum exemption for "other" personal property, excluding wages or salary, is raised from \$500 to \$1,000. An existing \$100 subcategory of "other" property is expanded to two \$100 subcategories, one for cash and one for bank accounts, stocks, and bonds.
- o The maximum exemption for motor vehicles is changed from \$1,200 for one car only, to \$2,500 in aggregate for up to two cars.
- o The maximum exemptions for farm equipment, professional equipment, and tools of a trade are each raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested January 17, 1991.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** These amounts have not been substantially changed in many years. Inflation alone requires some adjustment.

**Testimony Against:** The original bill might have adversely impacted child support enforcement.

**Witnesses:** Susan Stanley, Washington State Bar Association (in favor); Lonnie Johns-Brown, Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and National Organization of Women (commented on the bill); Dave Hogan, Department of Social and Health Services (opposes original bill); and Sandra Stith, Washington Collectors Association (commented on the bill).