



# 2020 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

REPEAL WASHINGTON'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL DEATH PENALTY AND  
REPLACE IT WITH LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE

## What needs to change?

On October 11, the Washington State Supreme Court found that Washington's use of the death penalty is "racially biased," "arbitrary," and "lacks 'fundamental fairness.'"

Consequently, the Court unanimously ruled that Washington's use of the death penalty is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court's ruling converted the sentences for the state's eight death-row inmates to life in prison without release.

## Why is this change necessary?

The Legislature faces a choice: either try to "fix" our broken death penalty to correct its unconstitutional application or abolish it and replace it with life in prison without the possibility of parole.

It's time to remove Washington state's broken and unconstitutional death penalty from our statute.

KEY  
STAT

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A study submitted to the Supreme Court and reviewed by an independent court commissioner found that black defendants were four times as likely as similarly situated white defendants to be sentenced to death.

## Around the US:

North Dakota and Rhode Island legislatures repealed their death penalties after their state supreme courts ruled them unconstitutional as applied.

## What's the solution? - [SB 5339](#) / [HB 1488](#)

Abolish the death penalty and replace it with life in prison without the possibility of parole.

*"The death penalty is not a deterrent to crime and is unnecessary for public safety."*

- The Seattle Times Editorial Board, 1/7/2019

*"The Supreme Court left open the possibility that the Legislature could fix the death penalty. No current or future Legislature should be permitted to do so."*

- The Seattle Times Editorial Board, 1/7/2019

## Key Support:

TBD

## Prime Sponsors:

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