

**SB 5516**

**Department of Justice**

---

SB 5516 is the budget bill for the Department of Justice. The Department is responsible for general legal counsel and supervision of all legal actions in which the state is a party or has an interest. DOJ is also responsible for a number of other programs including child support enforcement, crime victims' compensation, consumer protection, regulation of charitable organizations, and supporting the law enforcement community.

The Public Safety Subcommittee approved a \$482.2 million total funds budget, including: \$76.5 million General Fund; \$271.9 million Other Funds; \$113.2 million Federal Funds; \$4.9 million Other Funds Nonlimited; and \$15.7 million Federal Funds Nonlimited. The total funds budget is a 3.7% decrease from the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget. The budget includes 1,283 positions and 1,270.57 FTE.

The large decrease in the agency's budget from the prior biennium reflects the elimination of one-time funding for Phase-I of the Child Support Division's information technology project.

The budget includes General Fund investments of \$243,783 for the defense of the Master Tobacco Settlement agreement, \$806,958 for the Fusion Center, and \$2 million for a revenue shortfall in the Crime Victims' Services Division.

Other Funds investments include \$794,618 for financial fraud enforcement, \$1.5 million for agency litigation support, \$2.6 million for the Mortgage Mediation program,

\$2 million for Cover Oregon litigation, and \$2.3 million for a new case management system and agency website.

The budget includes the transfer of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program to the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training with the exception of the Investigative Support Center, which DOJ will retain.

The Defense of Criminal Convictions budget was reduced by 10% from \$25 million to \$22.5 million General Fund. This is still 21% more than the 2013-15 legislatively approved budget. The Attorney General is expected to continue prudent management of this caseload; however, the agency may need to request additional resources from the Legislature or Emergency Board, depending upon actual caseload activity.

The 2015-17 billable Attorney General rate for agencies will increase from \$159 for the 2013-15 biennium to \$175 and is estimated to generate \$153.3 million. The rate is a 10% percent increase over the prior biennium.

The Subcommittee approved the Department's key performance measures and targets.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 5516 be amended by the -2 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.