

## Legislative Fiscal Office

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## Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair  
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair  
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair  
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

**To:** Ways and Means Full Committee  
**From:** Public Safety Subcommittee  
**Re:** SB 896 Relating to criminal appeals

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**Senator Steiner Hayward:** "SB 896 amends and repeals several statutes that are related to appeals of criminal cases and attempts to clarify which trial court decisions can be appealed by both the defendant and the state.

The measure is anticipated to have an indeterminate impact to the Department of Justice Appellate Divisions' Defense of Criminal Convictions program. The measure provides more opportunity to appeal misdemeanor cases, however the potential increase is unknown. If the number of appeals increases beyond the Department's current capacity, DOJ may need to return to the legislature for additional resources or limitation.

While there is likely to be a modest increase in appealed misdemeanor cases, the Judicial Department and Public Defense Services Commission anticipate an offsetting reduction in workload related to the measure's clarification of statutes regarding what court decisions can and cannot be appealed.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 896 be reported out do pass."