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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: HB 5013 Judicial Department

Representative Stark: “HB 5013 is the budget bill for the Judicial Department. The Judicial Department operates the state’s unified court system; including the circuit courts, the Tax Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court. The Department is also responsible for the collection of court-ordered financial judgments.

The Public Safety Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$503.8 million, including \$450.7 million of General Fund, and 1,877 positions (1,764.31 FTE). The approved budget funds support for court and central support operations at approximately 4.4% below the current service level, to help balance the statewide General Fund budget. OJD is granted maximum flexibility to manage operations, to minimize the impacts of the funding level. The approved budget also adds support to maintain personnel needed to allow courts to fully utilize the expanded capabilities provided by the eCourt case management system, and to support specialty and treatment court programs.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends HB 5013 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”