

## Legislative Fiscal Office

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## Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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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 5033 Public Defense Services Commission

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**Representative Stark:** “HB 5033 is the budget bill for the Public Defense Services Commission. The Commission is the Judicial Branch agency responsible for establishing and maintaining the public defense system in Oregon. The Commission provides constitutionally- and statutorily-mandated representation in court to individuals eligible for these services because of financial inability to pay.

The Public Safety Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$303.9 million, including \$298.9 million General Fund and \$5 million Other Funds. The budget includes authorization for 77 positions (76.23 FTE).

The approved budget includes approximately \$629,000 in General Fund reductions from the current service level in the agency’s Operations and Appellate Divisions. Agency staff levels are preserved, however, and PDSC is expected to manage the reductions without impact to services.

The budget for payments to contractors who provide public defense at the trial level is reduced by approximately \$1.1 million from the original current service level. There are two offsetting adjustments to this payment level. The budget includes a General Fund reduction, to help balance the statewide General Fund budget. But funding is first “trued-up” to current caseload levels, to avoid disproportionate reductions to this program.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends HB 5033 be amended by the –2 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”