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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 2605 Relating to the establishment of circuit court judge positions

Representative Stark: “HB 2605 establishes two new circuit court judge positions: one in Washington County, and one in Josephine County.

The Chief Justice has identified both Washington and Josephine counties as having the highest need for additional judges and associated support staff, based on court workloads and the availability of sufficient courthouse space to accommodate the new positions. The new judicial positions become effective in January 2019. Staff support positions for the new judges are also established, beginning in November 2018.

The bill appropriates \$617,468 General Fund to the Judicial Department, and establishes eight positions (2.48 FTE), for the 2017-19 biennium costs associated with establishing the new judgeships.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends HB 2605 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”