

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 4: Public Defense Services Commission Executive Branch Transfer

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative Evans

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend appropriating \$1.2 million General Fund, with a corresponding decrease in the special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for the transfer of the Public Defense Services Commission to the executive branch, and authorizing the establishment of six permanent full-time positions (3.78 FTE) for the Public Defense Services Commission in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for the transfer of the agency from the judicial to the executive branch of government.

In the 2023 session, the Legislature enacted SB 337, which directed the transfer of the Commission from the judicial branch to the executive branch of government with an operative date of January 1, 2025. The Commission is requesting supplemental resources to effectuate the transfer and to support the long-term needs of the Commission.

The 2025-27 biennial cost of the request totals \$2 million General Fund and six permanent full-time positions.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.