

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 3: Public Defense Services Commission Unrepresented Defendant/Persons Crisis Hourly Program

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Sollman

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend appropriating \$3.6 million General Fund, with a corresponding decrease in the special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for the unrepresented defendant/persons crisis, and \$4.3 million General Fund for the Public Defense Services Commission in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for the Temporary Hourly Increase Program.

During the 2021-23 biennium, the Commission established the Temporary Hourly Increase Program to address the unrepresented defendant/persons crisis. The program is for in-custody defendants in local jails.

The 2023 Legislature funded an extension of the program through the first quarter of the 2023-25 biennium. The Commission then voted to extend the program from October 1 to November 30, 2023 and then again from October 31, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The Commission's 2023-25 legislatively adopted budget does not have the General Fund resources to fund the latter two extensions nor a shortfall in funding that occurred from the first quarter of the biennium.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.