

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 29: Department of Justice Internet Crimes Against Children

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

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend appropriating \$2.7 million General Fund and authorizing the establishment of 14 positions (6.50 FTE) for the Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Division, in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for the expansion of the Internet Crimes Against Children Program.

The program is currently staffed by two permanent full-time special agents that are funded with Federal Funds and two special agents and one criminal analyst funded with General Fund. This request would expand the program's funding by 127% and the number of authorized positions by 280%.

Outcomes from this investment include clearing the investigation backlog, increasing the number of in-house cybertip investigations, follow-up on referrals to local law enforcement, doubling the number of law enforcement trainings, and adding additional educational presentations at schools.

The 2025-27 biennium roll-up cost of the request is estimated to be \$4.8 million General Fund and 14 positions (14.00 FTE).

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.