

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 9: Public Defense Commission Temporary Hourly Increase Program**

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To: Emergency Board  
From: Public Safety Subcommittee  
Carrier: Representative Evans

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The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board acknowledge receipt of a report on the Temporary Hourly Increase Program, deny the request to remove the reservation in the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for public defense expenses, and defer the request to extend the Temporary Hourly Increase Program from January 1 to June 30, 2025 to the December 2024 meeting of the Emergency Board.

The Temporary Hourly Increase Program was developed to serve as a mechanism to increase attorney and investigator capacity through enhanced hourly rates of pay above standard hourly scheduled rates of pay. The program is limited to in-custody defendants. Total estimated program costs with the extension are estimated at \$40 million for the current biennium and \$26.1 million for the 2025-27 biennium. The program currently is projected to be in deficit by \$20.7 million General Fund without the extension and \$26.8 million with the extension.

Deferring consideration of the program's expansion until the Emergency Board meeting in December allows the Commission to submit a rebalance request to fill the program's funding gap using an estimated \$48.9 million of projected General Fund savings within the agency's current legislatively approved budget.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.