

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5514 Department of Justice

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

SB 5514 is the budget bill for the Department of Justice. The department is responsible for the legal counsel and supervision of legal actions in which the state is a party or has an interest. DOJ is also responsible for child support enforcement, crime victims' compensation, consumer protection, regulation of charitable organizations, and supporting the law enforcement community.

The budget totals \$813.6 million total funds, including: \$150.1 million General Fund, \$447.6 million Other Funds and \$215.9 million Federal Funds. The budget includes 1,485 positions for 1,474.82 FTE. The total funds budget is a decrease of 2.7% from the 2021-23 legislatively approved budget.

The budget includes investments in the Child Support Automated System, continues federal grant funding for victims of crime and other grants, carries forward American Rescue Plan Act funding for Community Based Violence Prevention, in-sources civil litigation staff, adds administrative staff, aligns the Defense of Criminal Conviction budget with forecasted caseload, provides for the reclassification of positions, eliminates long-term vacant positions, and makes select reductions to align the budget with available General Fund resources, among other changes.

The budget report includes three budget notes relating to the reporting on client agency savings from insourcing legal staff, improving caseload forecasting for the Defense of Criminal Convictions, and reporting on nonunanimous jury caseloads.

The Subcommittee added a new performance measure and approved updated targets.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 5514 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.