

Senate Finance / Judiciary Subcommittee
Subcommittee Members: Sen. Kiehl, Sen. Claman, & Sen. Myers

Narrative Closeout Report
April 12, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Judiciary submits the following FY24 recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee:

Fund Group: (dollars are in thousands)	Senate Sub
Unrestricted General Funds (UGF)	\$136,333.7
Designated General Funds	\$518.0
Other Funds	\$2,531.1
Federal Funds	\$1,280.3
TOTAL FUNDS	\$140,663.1

Positions:	
Permanent Full-time	748
Permanent Part Time	39
Temporary	5
TOTAL POSITIONS	792

BUDGET ACTIONS:

The Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee for the Judiciary reviewed the Governor's FY24 budget request. The following are highlights of the Subcommittee's action.

Governor's Amended Budget Request:

The Senate Finance Subcommittee accepted all of the Governor's requested changes.

Subcommittee Additions, Reductions and Changes

- Add funding for court-appointed attorneys (\$147.8 UGF.) The court primarily appoints lawyers to represent respondents in adult conservatorship cases, parents in Child of Need of Aid proceedings that involve ICWA, and people convicted of a crime who are filing a second petition for post-conviction relief. The Office of Public Advocacy's new contract rates will be between \$115 and \$145 per hour. This amendment funds the court-appointed attorneys at a level sufficient to pay \$130 per hour. If the court's rates remain below other agencies, they will have difficulty filling these needs.

- Remove special counsel funding for the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct (-\$27.0 UGF) from the numbers section. The Commission only rarely uses this funding for formal proceedings against judges. There has not been a full formal hearing since FY16. Because this funding is used responsibly and sporadically, the Subcommittee recommends adding it to the language section.

Organizational Changes:

The Senate Finance Subcommittee does not recommend organizational changes.

Intent or Conditional Language

The Senate Finance Subcommittee recommends a language appropriation for the Commission on Judicial Conduct: "An amount, estimated to be \$0, but not to exceed \$75,000, is appropriated from the general fund to the Judiciary, Commission on Judicial Conduct for special counsel costs related to unanticipated investigations."

ATTACHED REPORTS

The Senate Finance Subcommittee for the Judiciary adopts the following attached reports:

1. Agency Totals
2. Trans Compare 1: Adjusted Base+ to Senate Subcommittee
3. Trans Compare 2: Gov Amend+ to Senate Subcommittee

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Jesse Kiehl