

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS (0023) 2007-09 BIENNIUM

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES:

Mission

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the administrative office for the non-judicial business of the state courts. The office provides services to the court system, state and local government and the public.

Total Biennial Budget

The budget for the Administrative Office of the Courts for the 2007-2009 biennium is \$14.5 million the first year and \$14.9 million the second year.

Funding Source

The Administrative Office of the Courts receives funding from State Central Services, Federal Funding, Special Revenues, Administration of Justice Funding, and some cash funds.

II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:

State Operations appropriation is funded through State Central Services for \$3,226,086 the first year and \$3,307,723 the second year which is an increase over base level of \$265,465 and \$287,890 for one new position, increases in operating expenses, court interpreter fees, and capital outlay.

The Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation is responsible for the representation of children in dependency-neglect, custody and guardianship cases. The total appropriated amount is \$7,372,241 the first year and \$7,552,056 the second year which is an increase over base level of \$1,213,873 and \$1,270,521 for 10 new positions and for increases in operating expenses, professional fees, grants and aid, and refunds/reimbursements.

Judicial Fine Collection appropriation for costs associated with the development and implementation of the state court automation system is funded through special revenues (derived from a percentage of installment fees from court fines) and is for \$1,991,939 the first year and \$2,156,088 the second year with an increase over base level of \$227,322 year one and \$391,471 year two for six new positions, increases in operating expenses, professional fees, and capital outlay.

The Court Improvement Program appropriation is for \$607,154 the first year and \$609,681 the second year which is an increase over base level of \$266,411 year one and \$269,443 year two for one new position, increases in operating expenses, professional fees, and grants and aid.

All other appropriations are for base level.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Total Positions for FY 2007-09 Biennium: 92

Total Positions for FY 2005-07 Biennium: 76

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

Fund Transfer. Federal funds transferred to State Central Services, received from the State Police from the federal "State and Community Highway Safety Program" are to be used to reimburse the Municipal Judges Continuing Education Appropriation.

Contracting with Public Defenders. The AOC may contract with State

Employees to provide Dependency Neglect Services and it will not count against those employees rate of pay.

Dependency Neglect Representation Appropriation Transfer Authority. Allows the AOC to transfer funds and appropriations in regular salaries, matching for salaries, professional fees, Operating Expenses and the Attorney Ad Litem Fees/Reimbursements line items as needed.

Transfer Authority. Provides language that the appropriation for Dependency - Neglect may be funded by funds transferred from the State Administration of Justice Fund to the State Central Services Fund.

Funding. Federal funds received from the State Police from the federal "Safety Incentives to Prevent Operation of Motor Vehicles by Intoxicated Persons" may be used for operating expenses of the District Court State Automation System.

Monthly Installments. Provides that a lump sum monthly installment of the annual appropriation for the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation shall be provided from the Administration of Justice Fund.

Carry Forward. All unexpended appropriation and funds for the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation may be carry forward from the first fiscal year to the second fiscal year.

Legal Research Specialist New Hire Requirement. Any new hire for the this position for the Division of Dependency Neglect-Representation must have prior approval of the personnel subcommittee.

Indigent Parent Counsel Representation. Allows the AOC to enter into professional service contracts with attorneys to provide counsel for indigent parents in cases involving termination of parental rights.