

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains appropriations and budget cuts for the following state government entities: Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Trial Courts, Board of Public Defense, Department of Public Safety, Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, Department of Human Rights, and Department of Corrections. The bill also establishes a working group on controlled substance laws.

Section

- 1 Summary of Appropriations.** Summarizes direct appropriations by fund.
- 2 Public Safety Appropriations.** Describes, in general terms, the appropriations contained in this bill.
- 3 Supreme Court.** Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$778,000.
 - Specifies that \$650,000 of the cut must come from Supreme Court operations; and
 - Specifies that \$128,000 of the cut must come from civil legal services.
- 4 Court of Appeals.** Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$141,000.
- 5 District Courts.** Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$3,608,000.
- 6 Board of Public Defense.** Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$1,690,000.
- 7 Department of Public Safety.** Appropriates funds for FY08 and reduces appropriations for FY09.

Section

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates \$360,000 for FY08 and reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$1,598,000.

Subd. 2. Emergency management. Appropriates \$360,000 for FY08 to provide state match for federal disaster assistance. Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$40,000, which comes from the HAZMAT Team reimbursement funds.

Subd. 3. Criminal apprehension. Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$708,000. Of that amount, \$608,000 is cut from CrimNet. The remaining \$100,000 is cut from the Department as a whole, but the cut may not come from Office of Justice Programs or forensic lab scientists.

Subd. 4. Fire Marshal. Transfers \$1,000,000 from the Fire Safety Account to the general fund.

Subd. 6. Office of Justice Programs. Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$850,000. Of that amount \$350,000 is cut from the Financial Crimes Task Force and \$500,000 is cut from squad car camera reimbursements.

8 **Department of Human Rights.** Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$149,000.

9 **Department of Corrections.**

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$2,444,000.

Subd. 2. Community services. Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$2,100,000.

- Reduces funding for short-term offenders by \$1,500,000; and
- Reduces funding for Sentencing to Service by \$600,000.

Subd. 3. Operations support. Reduces the FY09 appropriation by \$344,000.

10 **Peace Officers Standards and Training Board.** Reduces the FY08 appropriation by \$25,000 and increases the FY09 appropriation by \$50,000.

11 **Working group on controlled substance laws; report to the legislature.**

Subd. 1. Establishment; membership; staff. Requires the chairs of the Senate and House public safety finance committees to appoint a working group on the state's controlled substance laws by July 1, 2008. Specifies who shall serve on the working group and staff the working group.

Subd. 2. Subject matter. Sets forth the following topics that the working group must review, assess and make specific recommendations about: (1) revising the threshold amounts for controlled substance crimes; (2) establishing a separate sentencing guidelines grid for drug offenses; (3) establishing additional aggravating factors so as to target particularly dangerous drug offenders; (4) revising the criminal history point calculations for repeat drug offenders; (5) maximizing the use of deferred prosecutions under § 152.18; and (6) increasing the use of the early release

Section

program for non-violent drug offenders. Sets forth an additional list of nine areas that the working group may consider.

Subd. 3. Report to the legislature. Requires the working group to report back to the appointing chairs by January 16, 2009 .