

Agency 056

Office of Public Defense

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2005-07 Expenditure Authority	12.5	11,493	20,481	31,974
Total Maintenance Level	13.5	22,704	18,029	40,733
Difference	1.0	11,211	(2,452)	8,759
Percent Change from Current Biennium	8.0%	97.5%	(12.0)%	27.4%
Performance Changes				
Appellate Pay Rates			490	490
Parents Representation Program	1.0	17,188		17,188
Public Defense Quality Standards		19,000		19,000
Rate Change for Court Reporters			292	292
Increase for Washington Defender Association		198		198
Subtotal	1.0	36,386	782	37,168
Total Proposed Budget	14.5	59,090	18,811	77,901
Difference	2.0	47,597	(1,670)	45,927
Percent Change from Current Biennium	16.0%	414.1%	(8.2)%	143.6%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Public Defense	14.5	59,090	18,811	77,901
Total Proposed Budget	14.5	59,090	18,811	77,901

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Appellate Pay Rates

The Office of Public Defense needs to provide equitable pay to prevent the loss of experienced, qualified contract attorneys who work on the most complex criminal cases. (Public Safety and Education Account-State)

Parents Representation Program

Funding is provided to expand the Parents Representation Program to all counties.

Public Defense Quality Standards

Recognizing critical public defense deficiencies in counties throughout the state, the 2005 Legislature adopted legislation mandating the Office of Public Defense to disburse funds to counties contingent on their fulfillment of quality and caseload standards for public defense services. Funding is provided to implement this mandate.

Rate Change for Court Reporters

Court reporters prepare verbatim reports of proceedings for indigent appellate cases and are compensated at a per-page rate set by the Washington Supreme Court. No significant rate adjustment has been made for the past 11 years. A rate increase from \$2.80 to \$3.10 per page will help offset cost-of-living increases for court reporters who perform these services. (Public Safety and Education Account-State)

JUDICIAL

Increase for Washington Defender Association

Under contract with the Office of Public Defense, the Washington Defender Association (WDA) provides resources for public defense attorneys. Since 1995, WDA has been funded by the state at approximately \$300,000 annually. An increase in funding, reflecting inflationary changes during the past 11 years, will enable WDA to continue services at its original level.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Public Defense

The Office of Public Defense's duties are to implement the constitutional guarantee of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent appellate services.