

Judicial Branch Budget Update April 7, 2003

Prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts

Current Year (2002-03) Impact:

The current year budget includes nearly \$200 million in reductions –

- \$15.2 million for the judiciary [appellate courts, Judicial Council, etc.] and
- \$184.1 million for the trial courts.

The current year budget included \$100.5 million in new funding for the trial courts and \$101 million in new funding for the judiciary. Nearly all of this funding is for mandatory/pass-through costs (employee and sheriff's salary increases and benefits, interpreter workload increases, and county charges).

In addition to these funded mandatory charges, the judicial branch had an additional \$40.4 million in unfunded mandatory costs (i.e., workers' compensation, retirement, benefit increases, interpreter workload, pro rata).

The Governor's mid-year proposal has now been approved, making the net impact on the judicial branch budget a \$239.4 million reduction or a 9.15% reduction in the base budget.

Proposed FY 2003-04 Reductions:

The FY 2003-04 proposal includes \$133.7 million in reductions –

- \$17.7 million for the judiciary and
- \$116 million for the trial courts

The judicial branch is projected to have an additional \$230.4 million in unfunded mandatory costs. [These unfunded mandatory costs are in addition to the \$44.8 million mandatory/pass-through costs that are included in the proposed budget – \$42.7 million in new funding for the trial courts and \$2.1 million in new funding for the judiciary.]

The Governor's proposed budget also contains a number of policy changes totaling \$129.3 million that would result in either increased revenues or cost reductions for the branch. These include:

Increased Revenues

- Increase trial motion fee from \$23 to \$33 \$ 1.2 million
- Undesignated fees 31.0 million
- Security fee of \$20 for Superior Court matters 34.0 million
- Increase appellate filing fee from \$265 to \$630 2.1 million

Cost Reductions

- Security flexibility \$22.0 million
- Reporting of the record 31.0 million
- Ownership of the record 5.5 million
- Consolidation of administrative services 2.5 million

If all of the proposed legislation to implement these policy changes was not enacted and the judicial branch's budget was not restored, the actual net impact on the base budget for FY 2003-04 would be a \$396.4 million reduction or 15.3%.