

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5532

Public Defense Services Commission

SB 5532 is the budget bill for the Public Defense Services Commission, the Judicial Branch agency responsible for maintaining the state's system of public defense. The Subcommittee approved an all funds budget of \$342,660,664 - an increase of \$27,707,707 or 8.8% compared to the current biennium.

SB 5532 supports initiatives aimed at improving the quality of public defense services. It provides funds to increase contract rates for trial-level public defense services and moves toward pay parity for appellate-level attorneys. The budget also makes investments in staff and Information Technology resources to improve Commission oversight of public defense contracts and the timeliness of payment processing. It supports a total of 79 positions (78.80 FTE).

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 5532 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.