

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Department of Justice General Counsel Division Report**

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To:           Ways and Means Full Committee  
From:        Public Safety Subcommittee  
Carrier:      Senator Gorsek

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On February 7, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Department of Justice on the General Counsel Division, with instruction that the Department of Justice - General Counsel Division be directed to return to the Legislature in 2023 to report on results of the Lead Contact Counsel pilot program and on a more refined pilot program proposal specifically targeted at demonstrating how the department can more effectively and directly support state agencies that incur high legal costs and that pose heightened litigation risk to the state.

DOJ provided a report on the General Counsel Division’s efforts to address the issues of client-agency coordination, effective service delivery, and cost control. The division’s report proposes a “Lead Contact Counsel” pilot program that would assign an additional attorney to large agency executive teams.

The division’s report is of limited scope and utility, as compared to the legislative expectation for the budget note. The report did not provide foundational information related to the division’s client agencies that incur “...high legal costs and that pose heightened litigation risk to the state” nor how the division’s legal services or proposed pilot program would be targeted to such agencies.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.