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Adam Greshin, Commissioner

To: Rep. Martin LaLonde, Chair

CC: Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Adam Greshin

Date: April 5, 2023

RE: Comments on House Judiciary Amendment to S.14

I write with regard to House Judiciary's proposed amendment (Draft 2.2 – 3/28/23) to S.14 – *An act relating to a report on criminal justice-related investments and trends*. I will not be available to testify on Thursday, but I wanted to provide the committee with brief comments from the Department of Finance & Management on sections 3, 5 and 6 of the proposed amendment.

In last year's Big Bill, Act 185 of 2022, a new section was established in the Department of Corrections budget – Section B.338.1 Department of Corrections – Justice Reinvestment II. An initial appropriation of \$9.87 million was made, which was predominantly General Fund but also included a mixture of federal funds. An additional \$2.8 million General Fund was added in Act 3 of 2023, the FY23 budget adjustment, most of which was a transfer from Section B.339 - Department of Corrections – Out-of-State Beds. In total, \$12.6 million was appropriated to justice reinvestment initiatives in FY23.

The establishment of a section in the Corrections' budget devoted specifically to justice reinvestment would seem to eliminate the need to create a special fund, as called for in section 3 of the House amendment. The call for a specific line item in the Corrections budget in section 4 of the amendment is satisfied as well. In terms of setting a minimum appropriation – “not less than \$900,000 in any single fiscal year”, in section 4(b) – the size of the appropriation should be a normal part of the annual budget cycle, proposed by the Governor and subject to review by legislative committees of jurisdiction.

Regarding section 6 in the House's proposed amendment, I would suggest justice reinvestment initiatives could be included in the Attorney General's General Fund appropriation. This could be called out as contracted services or included as part of their operational expenses. The AG could also work out an MOU with Corrections to achieve the same purpose.



Finance & Management is hesitant to create a special fund that duplicates initiatives already confirmed in previous legislation. Section B.338.1 in the Corrections budget provides a means to appropriate money to, and track expenditures from, justice reinvestment initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S.14. Please contact me with further questions and comments.

