

## Supreme Court of Vermont



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### OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

**TO:** Rep. Mike McCarthy, Chair, House Committee on Government Operations & Military Affairs

**FROM:** Gregg Mousley, Chief of Finance and Administration *JM*

**DATE:** April 25, 2023

**Re:** Review of New Draft of S.17 Impact on the Judiciary – Supplementary Memo

The Judiciary submits this Memorandum regarding the impact that the current draft of S.17 has on the Judiciary, as a supplement to the Memorandum of April 12, 2023, linked [HERE](#).

The current draft of S.17 (Draft 1.3 dated 4-20-23 @ 9:00 am) includes in Section 5 the same provision to amend 24 V.S.A. §291a(f) to provide for a single, state-wide contracted rate of sheriff pay for all courts. The Judiciary continues to support this provision.

The current draft of S. 17 also includes in Section 7 the same provision to amend 24 V.S.A. §293(e) to require a sheriff to provide a minimum of one certified deputy for each county and state courthouse, with an effective date of July 1, 2024. The Judiciary continues to support this provision.

The current draft also includes a new Section 7a that provides that on or before December 1, 2023, the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, in consultation with the Judiciary, "shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and to the Senate Committee on Government Operations on the required number of sheriff's deputies that need to be made available to provide law enforcement and security services to county and State courthouses to facilitate regular courthouse operations."

The Judiciary supports this provision, but strongly recommends that given the Judiciary's responsibility for and authority over courthouse security matters, that the Judiciary be responsible for the report, in consultation with the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs.

New Section 7a also provides that the Department "shall also provide recommendations to adjust the number of sheriff's deputies, if necessary, to accomplish facilitating regular courthouse

operations and develop a budget request for any necessary additional sheriff's deputies." Similar to the recommendation above, the Judiciary also respectfully requests that given its responsibility for and authority over courthouse security matters that the Judiciary be responsible for any recommendations to adjust the number of sheriff's deputies needed for courthouse operations.

The Judiciary appreciates the timeline of December 1, 2023 to prepare the report and recommendations, and believes that this timeline is adequate to study and analyze the many factors that come to bear regarding the required number of sheriff's deputies needed to provide law enforcement and security services to each of the 23 county and state courthouses in Vermont.

In conclusion, we very much appreciate the opportunity to comment on the current draft of S. 17, and the time and effort that the Committee has dedicated to the topic of courthouse security throughout this session.

cc. Rep. Matthew Birong, Vice Chair  
Rep. Mark Higley, Ranking Member  
Rep. Lucy Boyden, Clerk  
Rep. Seth Chase  
Rep. Lisa Hango  
Rep. Philip Jay Hooper  
Rep. Robert Hooper  
Rep. Michael Morgan  
Rep. Michael Mrowicki  
Rep. Kate Nugent  
Rep. Chea Waters Evans  
Andrea Hussey, Committee Assistant