



## JUDICIARY'S S. 17 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

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**House Committee on Government  
Operations and Military Affairs  
February 7, 2024**

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### S. 17 Directive

1. Number of sheriff deputies needed.
2. Recommendation regarding creation of classified position.
3. Corresponding budget request.



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## Background

- Vermont Supreme Court is responsible for courthouse security.
- Sheriff deputies, state employees and private security comprise security personnel.
- 2014 Security Assessment and aftermath.



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## Information Gathering

- Courthouse visits.
- Stakeholder meetings.
- Consultation and collaboration.



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## Factors Informing the Recommendations

- Security personnel roles.
- Levels of security risk.
- Judicial discretion.



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## Recommendation Regarding Security Positions and Roles:

- 47 armed and uniformed sheriff deputies – screeners, rovers and court officers in courtrooms.
- 33 Judiciary-employed and plain-clothed court officers in courtrooms.
- 5 Judiciary-employed and plain-clothed court officers available to be assigned state-wide.
- 3 Judiciary-employed supervisors state-wide.



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## Recommendations Regarding New Classified Positions

- Judiciary-employed court officer in courtrooms.
- Expanded enforcement authority/ advanced training in non-lethal use of force.
- Ability to fulfill administrative duties if no hearings or trials in courthouse where assigned.
- Training and certification program unique to the position.



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## Budget Request Related to Recommendations

	Current	Proposed	Diff (+/-)	Rate/Hr.	Annual/FTE	Total Cost
Sheriff Deputy	39.98	47.05	7.07	\$ 52.89	\$ 111,069	\$ 5,225,796
Private Guard	10.25	0	-10.25	\$ 40.00	\$ 84,000	\$ -
JUD Officer I	17	17	0		\$ 84,323	\$ 1,433,491
JUD Officer II	0	21	21		\$ 90,848	\$ 1,907,808
Supervisor	2	3	1		\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.23</b>	<b>88.05</b>	<b>18.82</b>			<b>\$ 8,867,095</b>

Current Budget \$ 6,822,764

Net New Cost (+/-) \$ 2,044,331



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Questions?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

