



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

To: Senate Appropriations Committee
From: Senate Judiciary Committee
Date: April 9, 2026
Subject: Committee Budget Recommendations Fiscal Year 2027

We are writing to share our committee's budget recommendations within the jurisdiction of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Each section differentiates between the original request and what the committee agreed to after hearing testimony.

State's Attorneys and Sheriffs

- Maintain elimination of vacancy savings
 - Already in House budget
 - *Unchanged by Judiciary Committee*
- Operating expenses
 - Requesting \$100,000 over Gov's recommended budget to address critical operational gaps. Would also cover deputy transport overtime.
 - *House included \$54,000. Judiciary Committee supports the full \$100,000 request.*
- Additional positions
 - Victim advocates: Four requested
 - Legal assistants: Three requested
 - Secretaries: Three requested
 - *House did not include any new positions. Judiciary Committee supports two new victim advocates, and supports zero new positions for legal assistants or secretaries.*

Crime Victim Services

- *Judiciary Committee supports the proposed budget as sent over by the House without any additional changes.*

Human Rights Commission

- *Judiciary Committee supports the proposed budget as sent over by the House without any additional changes.*

Attorney General

- *Judiciary Committee supports the proposed budget as sent over by the House without any additional changes.*

Defender General

- *House budget proposed an additional \$350,000. Judiciary Committee supports \$580,000 to fund the following:*
 - PD OPS - Case related expenditures: \$250,000
 - Assigned Counsel Contracts: \$250,000
 - In-Person Training: \$80,000
- PD Special Fund Shortfall: \$290,000
- Vacancy Savings: \$310,000

Department of Corrections

- *Judiciary Committee supports the proposed budget as sent over by the House without any additional changes.*

Judiciary

- Vacancy Savings Note: \$285,169
- Fee for space note: \$218,117
- Contracted Security Costs note: \$338,566
 - *House only included \$250,000 for Contracted Security Costs note.*
- Sheriff Association Proposed rate: \$726,401
 - Judiciary requested \$1,929,637

The Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Maintain \$350,000 in base funds to level fund domestic and sexual violence services.
 - *House included \$350,000 in one-time funds*
- \$250,000 in base funds to DCF for statewide system of supervised visitation programs.
 - *House included \$130,000, Judiciary Committee supports \$250,000*

Vermont Legal Aid

- Requests in addition to Gov's recommended budget:
 - Tenant representation program: \$510,000
 - Maintain funding from House passed budget for immigration: \$200,000
 - Maintain funding from House passed budget for statewide legal helpline: \$100,000
 - Inflationary increase on the \$2,617,994 base at 3% per year since 2025 through 2027: \$235,620
 - *Judiciary Committee does not support the inflationary increase of 3%*

Thank you for considering the committee's requests.

Sincerely,

Sen. Nader Hashim, Chair

Sen. Robert Norris, Vice-Chair

Sen. Christopher Mattos, Clerk

Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky

Sen. Phillip Baruth