



Vermont Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Timothy Lueders-Dumont, SAS Executive Director
Date: 4/9/2025
Re: SAS Funding and Position Requests

Thank you for your interest and support of the work of our State's Attorneys and our Sheriffs. We greatly appreciated the conversations this session with Senators on the necessary resources to continue our important work protecting Vermont communities and victims, while supporting best practices in the criminal justice system. See below for (1) SAS data snapshot; (2) information concerning the SAS budget as it came over from the House to the Senate in the Appropriations bill; (3) SAS' requests for funding and positions in FY26.

(1) SAS DATA SNAPSHOT:

The current workload of attorneys, victim advocates, and administrative staff includes roughly 23,500 pending cases. The State's Attorneys are handling 99% of the criminal cases in Vermont, including 98% of homicides.

- Each State's Attorney and Deputy State's Attorney carry a caseload of approximately 365 cases.
- Each SAS Victim Advocate is carrying approximately 600 cases.
- SA Offices are handling 96 homicides and attempted homicides. This does not include pending homicide investigations which would put the number over 100+. As of December 2025, only two of the 96 homicides were being co-counseled with the AGO.
- In 2024, the average monthly filings of criminal cases were 1,150.
- At the end of 2024, SAS had 1,000 pending juvenile delinquency cases, 399 Youthful Offender cases, and 1,158 pending CHINS cases.
- Repeat Offenders: At the end of 2024, there were 667 individuals with 5 or more pending cases that represented 5,307 total cases – essentially 23% of the total workload. There are 17 individuals with 20 or more pending cases representing 473 pending cases, and 149 individuals with ten or more pending cases representing 2,135 cases.

(2) HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL:

Below is a brief summary of the funding and staffing outcomes from the House Appropriations bill, and further, our requests to the Senate.

From House Appropriations Bill, State's Attorneys' Budget:

- The House bill provided \$650,000 for the State's Attorneys' FY26 budget which will allow us to eliminate our FY26 Vacancy Savings number, which would have otherwise resulted in us having to hold 5-6 positions open in the FY26 fiscal year.
- A one-year extension on 9 Limited-Service positions. Note, SAS had asked the House to convert these to Permanent positions because the positions and funding are already in our budget, so this is a NO COST request. These positions were allocated to SAS last year as limited service, making them Permanent for July 1st will greatly enhance our recruitment and retention of these positions. Please note that the BAA converted 8 positions for the Defender General from Limited Service to Permanent. Note also, the AGO received additional funding of \$1.1 million and a new permanent position in the FY26 budget as it arrived from the House.

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From House Appropriations Bill, Sheriffs' Budget:

- \$650,000 addition to the Sheriffs' FY26 budget which will allow us to eliminate our FY26 vacancy savings number, which would have otherwise resulted in us having to hold 5-6 positions open in the fiscal year.

(3) FY 26 SAS FUNDING AND POSITION REQUESTS

As noted in earlier discussions, and in a March 28, 2025, memo to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the State's Attorneys' and Sheriffs' Executive Committees are asking for restoration of vacancy savings, conversion of limited service positions to permanent, and additional staffing in order to handle the overwhelming caseloads faced by our State's Attorneys' staff, as well as the increased demands for transports to court hearings that must be accommodated by our State transport deputies.

- Support for restoring the base budget to level-funding to fill FY26 Vacancy Savings, as noted herein:
 1. \$650,000 for State's Attorneys budget
 2. \$650,000 for Sheriffs budget
- Conversion of SAS' existing 9 Limited-Service positions (awarded last session) to Permanent positions. The positions and the funding are already in the SAS budget, so this is a No Cost request, and almost all of these positions are filled and assigned to the S.A. field offices: \$0 Cost
- 1 Fiscal/ IT support staff: \$95,000
- 6 admin-paralegal support staff: \$650,000
- 4 Victim Advocates: \$320,000
- 6 State Transport Deputies: \$850,000