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Law and Justice Interim Committee

59th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

DANIEL MCGEE--Vice Chair
BRENT CROMLEY
JESSE LASLOVICH
GARY PERRY
JIM SHOCKLEY
CAROL WILLIAMS

HOUSE MEMBERS

JOHN PARKER--Chair
GEORGE EVERETT
DIANE RICE
RON STOKER
BILL WILSON
JEANNE WINDHAM

COMMITTEE STAFF

SHERI HEFFELFINGER, Lead Staff
VALENCIA LANE, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

MINUTES

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Committee tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.**

March 23, 2006

Sheraton Hotel, Skytop Room
Billings, Montana

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

REP. JOHN PARKER, Chair
SEN. DANIEL MCGEE, Vice Chair

SEN. BRENT CROMLEY
SEN. GARY PERRY
SEN. JIM SHOCKLEY
SEN. CAROL WILLIAMS

REP. DIANE RICE
REP. RON STOKER
REP. JEANNE WINDHAM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

SEN. JESSE LASLOVICH
REP. GEORGE EVERETT
REP. BILL WILSON

STAFF PRESENT

SHERI HEFFELFINGER, Staff Research Analyst
VALENCIA LANE, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

Visitors List and Agenda

Visitors' list, [Attachment 1](#)
Agenda, [Attachment 2](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

- Approved the drafting of a committee bill to address prosecution services.
- Approved using the Montana County Attorneys Association's proposal as the basis of the bill.
- Approved including in the bill the Montana Crime Lab's proposal.
- Approved including in the bill the Department of Justice's request for four additional people; two in the Prosecution Services and two in the Child Protective Services; and the Department of Justice reporting back to the Law and Justice Interim Committee on the Child Protective Unit matters.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

REP. PARKER called the meeting to order at 7:43 a.m. REP. PARKER gave a brief overview of what the committee did yesterday. Secretary took roll. Rep. Everett, Sen. Laslovich, Rep. Wilson were excused.

OVERVIEW

County Attorney Salaries and Costs

MS. HEFFELFINGER talked about her report, Decision Matrix: County Attorney Salaries and Costs (**EXHIBIT 1**).

County Attorney Caseload Data

MS. HEFFELFINGER discussed caseload data and issues outlined in her paper on court technology (**EXHIBIT 2**).

State Crime Lab

MS. HEFFELFINGER said information regarding the State Crime Lab was requested. From the Department of Justice and that guest speakers will present information and answer questions.

Prosecution Services Bureau, Attorney General's Office

MS. HEFFELFINGER said that John Connor, Chief of the Legal Services Division, Office of the Attorney General, is present to answer questions regarding the Prosecution Services Bureau.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON COUNTY ATTORNEY SALARY ISSUES

County Attorneys on the Panel:

FRED VAN VALKENBURG, Missoula County Attorney, MCAA President
 Mike Weber, Richland County Attorney, Vice-President of MCAA
 Rich Batterman, Fallon County Attorney
 Patrick Dringman, Sweet Grass County Attorney
 Gary Ryder, Treasure County Attorney

FRED VAN VALKENBURG introduced the county attorneys on the panel: Mike Weber, Richland

County Attorney; Rich Batterman, Fallon County Attorney; Patrick Dringman, Sweet Grass County Attorney; and Gary Ryder, Treasure County Attorney. Mr. Van Valkenburg said that the Montana County Attorneys Association is committed to solving ongoing issues about payment of the state share of county attorney salaries. He said that it has been difficult in: 1) figuring out that the state share is; and 2) getting the state to accept that fact that it was the state share. Mr. Van Valkenburg said that best way that the Committee should put the state share into the local government entitlement program and put in some mechanism so that the potential, necessary increases in the state share in the future could be accounted for. Mr. Van Valkenburg said that he wanted to bring forth a new issue; how to calculate the entry level salary of a full time county attorney. He said that the Legislature should be looking at providing incentives for qualified professionals to work in some of the rural and economically depressed areas in the state.

MIKE WEBER, Richland County Attorney, said that there should be a mechanism to help counties make the change from part-time to full-time county attorneys. He said that he supports what Mr. Van Valkenburg said about tying county attorney salaries to District Court Judge salaries. He said that a range of 75% of a district judge salary is reasonable and that the Association is in support of having the county attorney salaries or the state portion of the county attorney salaries as part of the entitlement.

RICH BATTERMAN, Fallon County Attorney, said that he serves both Fallon and Carter Counties. He said that part-time county attorneys serve officially part-time but are statutorily obligated to serve full-time because the job has to get done. He said that he would like the Committee to consider setting a base salary for the job.

MR. VAN VALKENBURG discussed the information packet that was distributed to the Committee. That packet contained a discussion e-mail from Mr. Van Valkenburg; a proposed "sample bill"; and percentages of District Judge Salary Spreadsheets (**EXHIBIT 3**).

COMMENTS

MIKE MCGRATH, Montana Attorney General, said that he agreed with the comments made earlier on county attorney salaries.

LARRY FASBENDER, Deputy Director, Department of Justice, said that putting the state share into the entitlement program was a simpler way to handle payments to counties. He said that another issue is including a state share for health care costs.

CASELOAD DATA

BILL GRIFFENBURG, Administrator, Information Technology, discussed the Integrated Justice Information System (IJIS Broker) (**EXHIBIT 4**).

MONTANA STATE CRIME LAB

LARRY FASBENDER, Deputy Director, Department of Justice, said that the Legislature did provide additional help to deal with the caseload that the state crime lab has. He said that one of the things that they are finding is that it is difficult to keep ahead of demand. He said that the demands on the forensic lab is high. Mr. Fasbender discussed the Forensic Science Division - Budget Proposal (**EXHIBIT 5**).

TAPE 1B

ISSUE OF PROSECUTION SERVICES BUREAU

MIKE McGRATH, Attorney General, said that he is concerned about the prosecution services bureau's ability to meet the requirements of the criminal workload. He said that the delivery of prosecution services is uneven; sometimes creating ineffective prosecution, sometimes the problems he discussed earlier are created by the current system. He said that the caseload is high because of the meth epidemic and what it creates. He said that he will be asking the Legislature for additional staff: two for the Prosecution Services and two for the Child Protective Unit.

JOHN CONNOR said that he has been with Bureau since 1987 and the Bureau is the same as it was ten years ago but the criminal justice system has changed. He said that it is difficult to keep up with what it is that they are supposed to be doing. He said that they could be more responsive if they have the additional prosecutors. He said that all they want is more opportunity to do what they are required to do.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

CHERYL WOOD, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties, said that she believes having a base salary for county attorneys is a good start. She said that there is a huge disparity in salaries. She supports setting the base, providing a longevity structure, and filing fees set according to salaries.

QUESTIONS

SEN. WILLIAMS asked Mr. McGrath why the cases regarding Child Protective issues are not getting done in a timely manner. MR. MCGRATH said each community and each county handles those cases in a different way. He said that usually the initial work in this area is done by social workers who work for DPHHS; it is not unusual for cases to be initiated by law enforcement, particularly in situations where there is meth involved and it is not unusual for law enforcement to go into the home. He said that the law requires that court action be filed immediately and children taken out of the home and placed temporarily in foster care. There is a lot of discussion on how to best provide services and prosecute those cases.

SEN. PERRY asked Mr. Fasbender why there is a six-month delay for blood and alcohol test results from the Crime Lab. MR. FASBENDER said that he doesn't know why there is a delay

on blood and alcohol tests. He said that the two sections that they have problems in are toxicology and latent print programs. SEN. PERRY asked Mr. Fasbender for examples of salaries for staff in the Crime Lab. MR. FASBENDER said that as far as the Crime Lab is concerned, the salaries run from \$50,000 for scientists up to the high end of \$65,000 for technicians. That range is 10-15% below what technicians are getting in other states. He said that what they are asking is to bring the salaries up to either market or give a 9% - 10% increase across the board. SEN. PERRY asked if it would be more efficient to add an \$80,000 person for DNA rather than going to an outside source. MR. FASBENDER said that the cost of sending DNA analysis out of state is higher than in-state.

SEN. SHOCKLEY asked if hiring two technicians for toxicology would help with the backlog and what needs to be done to eliminate the backlog. MR. FASBENDER said that they have enough staff to do the DNA work but there is a backlog in toxicology dealing with DUIs, urine analysis, and latent prints. He said that in order to eliminate the backlog, they would need additional people to process the toxicology and print analysis. He said that they would need two people, one in toxicology and one in latent printing. SEN. SHOCKLEY said that he supports this.

SEN. MCGEE asked each county attorney what proportion of their time is spent on criminal versus civil activities at the county attorney level. MR. VAN VALKENBURG said that he personally spends approximately 75% of his time is spent on criminal matters and 10% on civil matters and the balance is administrative. He said that in terms of the rest of his office, which has 14 deputy county attorneys, approximately 60% is criminal and 40% civil. MR. WEBER, Richland County Attorney, said that his workload is 50% civil and 50% criminal. He said there is one full time deputy county attorney and he estimates his workload is 90% criminal and 10% civil. MR. BATTERMAN, Fallon County Attorney, said that for each of the counties that he represents, 60% is civil and 40% is criminal. GARY RYDER, Treasure County Attorney, said that about 40% criminal and 60% civil. PAT DRINGMAN, Sweet Grass County Attorney, said that his time varies from month to month but it is closer to 50/50 with criminal and civil.

SEN. MCGEE asked Mr. Griffenberg what the costs were for the IT system and what the schedule for installment was going to be. MR. GRIFFENBERG said that budget is \$500,000.

SEN. MCGEE asked Mr. Fasbender if the salaries regarding the Department of Justice request for additional staff for the Crime Lab part of the public employee's matrix or general pay if they involve a union situation. MR. FASBENDER said that the Department is on the state's broadband system; there is no union involved as far as the State Crime Lab is concerned.

SEN. MCGEE asked Mr. Connor if there is any civil work done out of his office. MR. CONNOR said that his office provides training in civil areas related to what county attorneys do. SEN. MCGEE asked if Mr. Connor's office handles big time criminal cases and also gets involved in adjudication of situations that are actually civil cases. MR. CONNOR said that that is true but

they don't handle just big time cases, they handle a lot of cases where county attorneys have a conflict about legal situation in counties.

REP. RICE asked Mr. Griffenberg if the \$500,000 cost for the IT system that he mentioned was per year. MR. GRIFFENBERG said that that was not per year. He said that about \$100,000 is for Phase I. He said that they will be looking for \$200,000 in authority for grants, etc.

REP. RICE asked Mr. McGrath if the ads for the Montana Meth Project have been effective and what time lines have resulted from that. MR. MCGRATH said that the Montana Meth Project, which is run by Mr. Siebel, was initiated in September 2005, and at that time they did a baseline survey of teens in Montana to determine how many were aware of meth, how many used meth, how many were aware of where meth could be obtained, and what risks teens perceived about using meth. The statistics was that a percentage of teens in Montana did not perceive that the use of meth posed a risk to their health or any other risks. The Meth Project ran an ad in September and now they are conducting a survey to determine if the ads had any effect. He said that they intend to release the survey sometime in the month of April and will be kicking off a new series of ads.

TAPE 2A

SEN. PERRY asked Mr. Fasbender, regarding the case of a death in which alcohol or drug use was suspected by police, how long would the turnaround be to get results to confirm one way or other if alcohol or drug use was a factor in the death. MR. FASBENDER said that he can't answer that because every case involves a complexity of factors. MR. MCGRATH said that a lot of the testing is done in the labs at local hospitals. He said that if you had an alcohol-related crash with someone dying, it is possible that law enforcement could do the toxicology for blood alcohol at the local level.

SEN. PERRY said that there are times when a certain amount of compassion is needed. He referred to a situation that had happened in Gallatin County where an officer suggested to the news media that alcohol was involved in the car accident resulting in a death and that that turned out to not be the case. News reports of this kind can damage a person's reputation and harm the families. Sen. Perry said that he wants to stop that type of speculation by law enforcement from being printed and to get more rapid results so that the truth can be known without damaging people's reputation.

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

COUNTY ATTORNEY SALARY ISSUE

SEN. PERRY moved for a committee bill to address prosecution services.

QUESTIONS

SEN. MCGEE, referring to the Summary of State Share of County Attorney Salaries (**EXHIBIT 6**), asked Mr. Van Valkenburg what the state's share of his salary is; when he negotiates for county attorney salary, who does he negotiate with; how is the County Compensation Board composed; does every county have a County Compensation Board. MR. VAN VALKENBURG said that the County Compensation Board sets his salary. The County Compensation Board is composed of three County Commissioners, the County Attorney, the County Clerk and Recorder, the County Auditor, and two members of the general public who have been appointed by the county commissioners. He said that every county has a County Compensation Board.

SEN. MCGEE asked if there was any correlation between population and salary. MR. VAN VALKENBURG said that the Legislature in statute created the County Compensation Board and directed it to take into account population when setting salaries. He said that the counties that have a population in excess of 30,000 must have a full time county attorney.

REP. PARKER asked Mr. Fasbender if the draft language that Mr. Van Valkenburg presented covers everything that the Department of Justice needs. MR. FASBENDER said that one of things that needs more consideration is what would happen if additional counties were to change from part time to full time county attorneys. He said that the draft bill should include some type of consideration for health insurance, if that is the policy decision.

SEN MCGEE asked Mr. Van Valkenburg if benefits, etc., are included when a county attorney negotiates with the county for their salary. MR. VAN VALKENBURG said that in some cases that is part of negotiations, but, for instance, in Missoula County, it is not negotiated because it is a given.

SEN. MCGEE said that he sees a situation where there are two legitimate state government entities: the county and the state, which are potentially at odds. MR. MCGRATH said that the problem is fundamentally a mechanical problem; the Legislature meets every two years and presents a two-year budget, the County Compensation Board meets annually. The boards are always one year behind. He said the proposal of using the entitlement program would provide more flexibility.

MOTION

SEN. SHOCKLEY moved to develop language for draft legislation using Fred Van Valkenburg's draft as a building block.

DISCUSSION

SHERI HEFFELFINGER said that draft language is provided in the Information Packet, County Attorney Salaries (**see Exhibit 3**). She said that not all statutes would require changes but they would be working to include all the other statutes. The key points are in (3)(a) where it says 75% of the salary the district judge, and asked the members of the Committee to circle the 75% and then look at section (3)(b) and (c). Subsection (c) is the new language that was added in.

SEN. WILLIAMS asked Mr. Fasbender if he agreed that this is the right way to go. MR. FASBENDER said that there are some details that need to be worked out, and those include policy decisions, setting percentages, base health insurance, and the entitlement program.

REP. PARKER said that the motion on the floor is for 75% because Sen. Shockley moved to use Mr. Van Valkenburg's draft as a starting point. There should be a supplementary motion to authorize Ms. Heffelfinger to work with Mr. Fasbender to address those other concepts. REP. STOKER said that he has been asked to suggest that they accept the modified amendment from Sen. Shockley. SHERI HEFFELFINGER asked for clarification because Sen. Perry had made a motion to have a general revision committee bill. REP. PARKER asked for a vote on Sen. Perry's motion for a general committee bill on prosecution services.

SEN. PERRY'S MOTION FOR A GENERAL COMMITTEE BILL ON PROSECUTION SERVICES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REP. STOKER said that he wanted clarification about whether including county attorney salaries in the entitlement program has risks for county compensation boards. MR. FASBENDER said that you set a new base once, then there is no further change, which gives latitude to counties if they decide to change those salaries.

REP. RICE asked where do counties under 30,000 people stand. MR. FASBENDER said that counties at or above 30,000 people requires the county to have a full time attorney. He said that they would have to put something in the bill to determine how salaries would be adjusted for counties with less than 30,000 people.

REP. STOKER asked Mr. Van Valkenburg if using 50% of 75% of a district judge's salary would give certain county attorneys an increase in pay. MR. VAN VALKENBURG said that in the Information Packet there is an email message from him to Mr. Fasbender that sets out which counties may be affected by the 75% number. He said that there are 32 counties that now have full time county attorneys; 8 of those 32 don't pay their full time county attorneys enough to reach the 75% equivalent, but those counties are not far from that amount. He said that there are several part time county attorneys who would have to have an increase in pay based on the way LC71 is currently drafted, which would give them an appropriate percentage of the 75% and that is set out in the second paragraph of his email message.

TAPE 2B

REP. PARKER said that the motion that is on the floor is the adoption of LC71 as a working draft with the idea that the Department of Justice could provide technical assistance. He said that this motion recognizes that the actual numbers for an increase in county entitlement doesn't address the health insurance issues.

SEN. SHOCKLEY said that it was his intent to encompass all the issues that we are dealing with. He said that his motion includes the entitlement share numbers, a health insurance factor, and the transition of a part time county attorney to full time.

SEN. MCGEE said that if the Committee came up with a completely different scheme, he is not sure that he favors 75% of the district court judges. REP. PARKER said that what they are doing is authorizing staff to draft something that they can consider as an interim committee until they take a vote in September. He said that this 75% figure becomes a starting point, it allows a draft to come together, get more technical, and then allow the Committee to look at the draft.

SEN. PERRY said that he had made the motion for a general committee bill because he couldn't find a logical basis for what they were doing. He said that what he meant was what is being discussed right now, not whether or not they need assistance in the Lab. He asked what the logical basis for setting any percentage at all on the judges' salary for the base for county attorneys. He said that what they are doing now is taking a survey of surrounding states and then taking an average of that and that becomes the pick for a salary for a judge. Therefore, the logical basis for that is, looking at what other states are doing and saying that we were going to take their lead and follow what they are doing. Sen. Perry said that another reason for changing what we are now doing is that the county attorney salary is set by the county and the state responds to what the county is doing when we are determining what our state expenditures will be. He asked that if we say 75% out of judges' salary will be the basis for county attorneys salaries, are we saying that the amount of work done by county attorneys is 75% of what the judges are doing, or are we saying that the responsibility that county attorneys have is 75% of the judges? On what basis are we taking a percentage?

MR. VAN VALKENBURG said that he pulled 75% out of the air because MACo felt that the current law was confusing, outdated, and not helpful in terms of figuring out how much to pay a county attorney in a rural county who might be starting out. He said that he picked that number for two reasons: one, it essentially doesn't raise pay for many county attorneys; and, secondly, the mechanism for determining a district judge's salary is already in place. Mr. Van Valkenburg said that by tying county attorney salaries to the district court judge's salary, future legislators won't have to deal with the base pay issues every two years.

SEN. PERRY said that his point is that while the Committee is looking to fix the system, why not

be sure that the Committee looks at all the alternatives and pick the best one. Also, why not look at whether county attorneys should be elected. He said that the Committee should look at the discrepancy between longevity for both deputy county attorneys and county attorneys.

REP. PARKER said that the Committee had considered several months ago a full range of topics on the table including whether to completely restructure the county attorney's role, and at that point, the Committee voted against it. SEN. PERRY asked if the Committee discussed whether a county attorney should be elected or not. REP. PARKER said they didn't. He said that Ms. Heffelfinger presented a grid of structures in different states which included whether county attorneys were elected or not, and nearly all were elected offices.

SEN. PERRY said that he thinks the Committee is finally working on preparing a draft bill and that he wanted to ask these questions so that they can consider all the issues and the ultimate solution. He said that when they take this to the legislature to ask for more money, he can either keep his seat or he can stand with the microphone and present reasons why his colleagues should vote for the bill. REP. PARKER asked if Sen. Perry would like to ask one of the county attorneys about the elected versus the appointed issue. SEN. PERRY said that since the Committee is in the discussion phase, he is looking for input to address these things. He said that he does not see a logical basis for the 30,000 population threshold for determining whether a county attorney is full time. He said that it seems to him that the Constitution already handles this matter but statutes should be changed so that the Board of County Commissioners and the county boards themselves can determine the county attorney's salary. REP. PARKER asked Ms. Cheryl Wood to follow up and provide information about MACo's position.

SEN. SHOCKLEY said that the basic scheme in the bill draft would be that the state would pay half of 75% of the district court judge's salary, which is set by statute, but the county would still have the option of paying more. He asked Mr. Van Valkenburg if he thought that that was the concept. MR. VAN VALKENBURG said no, that basically they have proposed that the state will pay essentially what is 50% of the county attorney's current salary by changing the formula in the local government entitlement share calculation of each county's base amount. They were also asking the Legislature to set a minimum salary for a full time county attorney at 75% of a district court judge's salary. He said that they would also ask that the state include within the entitlement share a state contribution of 50% of the health insurance costs for a county attorney.

REP. PARKER asked for Sen. Shockley to restate his motion.

MOTION

SEN. SHOCKLEY moved that staff, using the Montana County Attorneys Association's proposed draft and in coordination with Attorney General's Office staff, to draft a bill that includes the issues of entitlement, health insurance, and the transition of part time

county attorneys to full time county attorneys for the Committee's consideration at a time to be determined by the Chairman.

DISCUSSION

SEN. PERRY said that the Committee was narrowing the scope by looking at Mr. Van Valkenburg's proposal.

SEN. MCGEE said that he can support the motion if it is known in advance that this is a concept and that the outcome could be different. REP. PARKER said that this Committee is just authorizing the drafting and once text is in front of them, they can have more discussion and public comment.

SEN. PERRY said that the Constitution states that the terms, qualifications, duties and compensation of those offices, including the county attorneys, shall be provided by law. He said that his question is, what law, whose law, the Board of Commissioners, the Board of County Compensation, what becomes the law and what is accurate, and is our current system constitutional. MS. HEFFELFINGER said that by law means by statute, so the legislature decides. SEN. PERRY asked if the determination of county attorney's salary was done properly by statute. SEN. SHOCKLEY said that he agreed with Ms. Heffelfinger that by law means statute, and if the statute allows the counties to adjust that salary, that is within the law.

SEN. SHOCKLEY'S MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

TAPE 3A

MOTION

MONTANA CRIME LAB

REP. WINDHAM moved to include in the bill the Montana Crime Lab's proposal. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION

PROSECUTION SERVICES

SEN. WILLIAMS moved to include the Department of Justice's request for four additional people, two in the Prosecution Services and two in Child Protective Services. REP. PARKER asked for an amendment that the Department of Justice reports back to the Law and Justice Interim Committee on the Child Protective Unit matters. SEN. WILLIAMS AMENDED HER MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CASELOAD DATA ISSUES

MS. HEFFELFINGER discussed court technology issues.

REP. PARKER said that he would like to suggest a half hour to an hour presentation on court technology at the May meeting.

MS. PAT GERVAIS, Fiscal Analyst, LFD, said that the court is moving forward with a number of technology issues; they have implemented Full Court in most Courts of Limited Jurisdiction; they have a pilot program that runs through April or May to see how Full Court meets District Court needs, and after the pilot, they will look at how to move forward with that and should have an idea by the end of the year.

AUDIT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION

MS. ANGIE LANG, Auditor, Legislative Audit Division (LAD), distributed the LAD Report on Public Defender Services in Six Selected Counties (**EXHIBIT 7**). She summarized the methodology for and findings of the audit.

REP. PARKER said that the purpose of the presentation is to raise some initial questions. He said that there will be a joint Public Defender Commission meeting at the Public Defender's Office in Butte.

SEN. MCGEE introduced MR. SCOTT TURNER, Yellowstone County Finance Officer, whom he had asked to attend the meeting.

SEN. MCGEE said that the whole purpose of the audit was to give this Committee actual costs numbers. He said the Committee had policy decisions to make regarding costs that should be funded by the state, how it should be funded, how much, and what funding mechanisms should be used. The Committee will then produce a bill that will go before the Legislature in 2007, to clean up what should have been county costs and what should have been state costs, and to set up the formula in the entitlement share. Sen. McGee said that he would encourage the Committee to read the audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MR. GARY RYDER, Treasure County Attorney, said that he has issues on the open meeting law. He said that he supports having more personnel in the Crime Lab.

PUBLIC DEFENDER AUDIT

SEN. MCGEE asked Ms. Lang to tell the Committee what she told him about the reimbursement from the State Court Administrator Office, some of the issues that came up over the years like shortages of funds, the list of reimbursable expenses and what they were and what they weren't, and when they were conflicting. SEN. MCGEE said that he would like the Committee to be very careful that when they read the Audit and start processing all the expenses and reimbursements. MS. LANG said that although there has been rules and forms on how the counties are reimbursed for expenses, there was no true manual on how this was done.

ADJOURNMENT

REP. PARKER adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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