

Office of the Public Defender

FY 2014 Revised
FY 2015 Budget

Staff Presentation
February 27, 2014

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Public Defender

- Created in 1941 by Chapter 1007 of the Public Laws
 - ❖ Office & its functions defined by RIGL12-15
 - ❖ RIGL 14-1 authorizes referral of juvenile cases to the Office
 - ❖ RIGL 40-11 authorizes referral of dependency, neglect and termination of parental rights cases
 - ❖ Offices located in five Judicial Complexes
 - ✓ Providence (2), Kent, Washington, and Newport

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Public Defender

- Statutory mandates
 - ❖ Legal representation to adults and juveniles without financial resources to obtain private counsel
 - ❖ Representation services include
 - ✓ Indigent adult and juvenile criminal felony and misdemeanor offenses
 - ✓ Termination of parental rights and dependency and neglect cases
 - ✓ Appellate representation in the Supreme Court

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Public Defender

- Conflict of Interests
 - ❖ When interests of a client is adverse to that of another client
 - ❖ Client(s) can be referred to the Judicial Indigent Defense program
 - ✓ The Judiciary assigns private attorneys to provide representation services
 - ✓ Each court maintains a list of qualified attorneys

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Expenditures by Source

(in Millions)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2014 Gov. Rev.	FY 2015 Governor	Change to Enacted
General Revenues	\$ 11.0	\$ 10.9	\$ 11.1	\$ 0.1
Federal Funds	0.3	0.3	0.2	\$ 0.0
Total	\$ 11.3	\$ 11.1	\$ 11.4	\$ 0.1
<i>FTEs</i>	<i>93.0</i>	<i>93.0</i>	<i>93.0</i>	-

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Budget Office Target

- General revenue target of \$10.4 million
 - ❖ Current service adjustments of \$74,210
 - ❖ 7.0% target reduction of \$0.7 million
 - ✓ Constrained budget submitted by the Office is \$1 above the target
- Governor recommended budget exceeds target by \$0.8 million

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Salaries and Benefits

- Governor includes \$10.0 million, nearly all from general revenues for 93.0 FTEs for FY 2015
 - ❖ \$0.1 million more than enacted, \$0.2 million less than requested
 - ✓ \$127,375 from additional turnover savings
 - ✓ \$40,351 from statewide medical benefit savings
- Governor recommends \$9.8 million from all sources for FY 2014, \$9.7 million from general revenues
 - ✓ \$0.1 million less than enacted or requested
 - ✓ Current staffing adjustments & statewide savings

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Salaries and Benefits

Full-Time Equivalent Positions

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Chg. To Enacted
Enacted Authorized	93.0	-
FY 2014 Rev. Req.	93.0	-
FY 2015 Request	93.0	-
FY 2015 Governor	93.0	-
FY 2013 Average Filled	90.2	(2.8)
Filled as of February 22	92.0	(1.0)

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Salaries and Benefits

General Revenue Target Reduction

- Office proposed 3 different options to meet the Budget Office target
 - ❖ Option 1: Eliminate misdemeanor representation in District Courts statewide
 - ❖ Option 2: Eliminate juvenile representation in Family Courts statewide
 - ❖ Option 3: Close offices in Newport & Washington counties & eliminate representation for felony violations in Providence
- The Governor does not recommend any of these proposals

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Other Operations

- Governor recommends \$1.4 million from all funds for all other expenses
 - ❖ \$1.2 million from general revenues, \$0.2 million from federal funds
 - ✓ Rent and parking expenses
 - ✓ Intake interviewers
 - ✓ Trial related expenses
 - ❖ \$24,354 less than requested from all funds
 - ✓ Lower court overhead charges for office space and utilities (\$22,354)
 - ✓ Reduction for legal expert witnesses (\$2,000)

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