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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/2006

SPONSOR Fidel LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Administrative Office of District Attorneys SB 614

ANALYST Lewis/McOlash

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$2,082.5	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 366.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Administrative Office of District Attorneys (AODA)

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 614 appropriates \$2,082,500 from the general fund to the to the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys to provide for parity salary adjustments for attorneys in the district attorney offices.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

House Bill 7, for the Legislative Finance Committee, provides for five percent salary increases for District Attorneys (\$81,955) and District Attorney employees (\$2,136,420).

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the Administrative Office of District Attorneys (AODA),

- Prosecutors are the lowest paid attorneys in state government, receiving an average of 15 percent (\$5-12,000 per year) less than other state attorneys with comparable experience.
- Turnover rates for attorney positions in some district attorneys' offices are as high as 30 percent and average 22 percent statewide.
- The high turnover rates affect the criminal justice system,
  - leading to inefficient processing of criminal cases, and
  - requiring excessive time and resources to train new attorneys.

According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), there is an ongoing statewide study to review and assess the staffing requirements of the district attorneys, public defenders, and judges. The study will be completed in FY 07.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The AOC notes that FY 06 is the third year that the courts are participating in performance based budgeting, and suggests that this bill may have an impact on the measures of the district courts in the following areas:

- cases disposed as a percent of cases filed,
- percent change in case filings by case type, and
- clearance rate.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

According to the AODA, District Attorneys' offices will continue to have high turnover rates and experience the inefficiencies associated with being unable to retain a tenured attorney staff.

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