



BILL SUMMARY

Judicial Branch Budget FY 15 HF 2449

Status of Bill: House Floor
 Committee: Justice Systems Budget Subcommittee (5-4)
 House Appropriations Committee (25-0)
 Lead Democrats: Rep. T. Taylor
 Floor Manager: Rep. Worthan
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Bill Summary

Under the funding proposal for the Judicial Branch in HF 2449, they will receive a total of close to \$175 million for FY 15, which represents an increase of just under \$7 million compared to FY 14. With this budget bill there isn't a recommendation by the Governor, just the request from the Judicial Branch.

There are only two line items in this budget bill: Operations and Jury and Witness Fee Revolving Fund. The increase in appropriation is found in the operations line item. The Jury and Witness Fee Revolving Fund remains at status quo with a \$3.1 million appropriation.

	FY 14 Estimate	Judicial Branch Req. FY 15	HF 2449 FY 15	HF 2449 v. FY 14	HF 2449 v. FY 15 Req.
Judicial Branch					
Operations	\$ 164,599,367	\$ 176,288,424	\$ 171,486,612	\$ 6,887,245	\$ (4,801,812)
Jury & Witness Fee Revolving Fund	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 3,100,000	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 167,699,367	\$ 179,388,424	\$ 174,586,612	\$ 6,887,245	\$ (4,801,812)

The House Appropriations Committee adopted one amendment regarding language which states that "it is intent of the General Assembly that the Judicial Branch emphasizes the expansion of the family treatment courts on a statewide basis." These are the courts that participants are chosen because they are at risk of having their children taken away from them. The Department of Human Services is very much involved in these courts.

This bill does not set the salary amounts for the judges; if changes are to be made to that Code section, it has been done in the Standings Bill.