



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee
 From: Amanda Bickel and Scott Thompson, JBC Staff
 Date: April 1, 2026
 Subject: 1.5% Reduction for Judicial and Step Adjustments

Options for 1.5% Reduction

Last year, after the JBC applied the 1.0 percent personal services reduction, Courts and Probation noted that they were disproportionately affected and that some of their staff are in critical public-facing functions where vacancies cannot be held. They provided several options, and the JBC ultimately took an option that modified the impact of the cut. **Specifically, last year, the JBC chose Option 2, below. Based on the action last year, the JBC could consider a similar adjustment this year.**

Judicial Options for 1.5% cut

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
	Judicial Adjustments Excludes Judges + Judge Support Staff + all Law Clerks + all Magistrates	Judicial Adjustments Excludes FTE from Option 1 + Interpreters and Court Reporters	Judicial Adjustments Excludes Staff from Option 1, 2 + Court Executives and Chief Probation Officer FTE	Judicial Adjustments Excludes Staff from Option 1, 2, 3 + Probation Officers
Calculation WITHOUT exclusions	\$6,212,600	\$ 6,212,600	\$ 6,212,600	\$6,212,600
Alternative Courts & Probation Calculation	3,578,175	3,411,601	3,219,114	2,024,553
Difference from Recommended Cut	(\$2,634,425)	(\$2,800,999)	(\$2,993,486)	(\$4,188,047)

Step Pay Calculation Corrections

Office of the State Public Defender & independents: Initial templates for the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) reflected unexpectedly large amounts for step pay. Because the OSPD step system is very different from other parts of the state, **staff recommends calculating their need on a “step-like” basis. Staff believes this is consistent with the motion the vice chair indicated on 3/31 that he planned to make for compensation.**