

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2025 Interim

August 20, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary was held on August 20, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer Co-Chair; Representative Stephanie Dietz Co-Chair; Representatives Daniel Elliott, and Scott Sharp.

Guests: Audrey Collins, Executive Officer, Department of Specialty Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts; Hon. Kathryn Gabhart, Circuit Judge, 14th Judicial Circuit; Hon. J. Foster Cotthoff, District Judge, 3rd Judicial District

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Benjamin Thompson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Administrative Office of the Courts - Overview of Specialty Courts

Audrey Collins, Executive Officer, Department of Specialty Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts; Hon. Kathryn Gabhart, Circuit Judge, 14th Judicial Circuit; Hon. J. Foster Cotthoff, District Judge, 3rd Judicial District provided an overview of the work done in specialty courts.

In response to a question from Chair Funke Frommeyer, Judge Cotthoff noted that in veterans treatment court sometimes individuals need to go to inpatient treatment facilities and then resume the program after completing treatment.

In response to a question from Representative Dietz, Judge Cotthoff stated that restitution and child support payments are required but judges can waive court costs for indigent individuals.

In response to questions from Chair Funke Frommeyer, Ms. Collins said that the Administrative Office of the Courts looks at the veteran population in a given area to determine if veterans' treatment court is a viable option. Judge Cotthoff noted that the cost

of incarcerating an individual is high, while the cost of diverting a qualified individual through specialty court is significantly lower.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 AM.