

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Budget Committee

FROM: Carolyn Kampman, JBC Staff

SUBJECT: Staff Comebacks for Independent Ethics Commission

DATE: March 11, 2015

Staff Comeback for FY 2014-15 Concerning Grant

During the discussion of the IEC's budget request, staff mentioned that the IEC had been notified that it was awarded a \$1,300 micro-grant from the Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA). The SIPA receives applications from various state agencies, counties, municipalities and special districts for assistance to increase their adoption and usage of online services by placing more information, products, or services online. The IEC requested \$1,300 for technology to provide more services online. This funding will be used to: (a) purchase a laptop to use for streaming during meetings (\$500); and (b) purchase a microphone and pay for streaming services and online storage that can be accessed through the Internet (\$800).

Staff recommends that the Committee appropriate \$1,300 cash funds to the IEC for FY 2014-15 to allow the Commission to receive and spend the SIPA grant. Staff has confirmed with the Judicial Department's Controller that this appropriation is necessary to authorize the IEC to spend the grant. The grant will be awarded on March 31, 2014, so the spending authority should be provided for FY 2014-15. This appropriation will be included as a separate section within the FY 2015-16 Long Bill.

Overall IEC Budget for FY 2015-16

On February 18, the Committee discussed but did not take any action on the FY 2015-16 budget request submitted by the Independent Ethics Commission (IEC). The Committee tabled this section of the Judicial Branch budget pending a comeback from the IEC. In order to facilitate the Committee's consideration of the IEC comeback, staff has prepared the following table to summarize the request and recommendation for FY 2015-16. In addition, staff has revised the recommendation for FY 2015-16 to reflect the impact of the SIPA grant described above.

Specifically, staff has reduced the recommended appropriation for Operating Expenses by \$500. The IEC's request for FY 2015-16 included \$500 for the purchase of a laptop for streaming, and this amount is no longer needed as it was covered by the SIPA grant.

Description of Line Item Appropriation (General Fund unless otherwise noted)	FY 2014-15 Adjusted Appropriation 1/	FY 2015-16		
		IEC Request	JBC Staff REVISED Recommend.	Request Over/ (Under) Recommend.
Personal Services	\$117,977	\$199,457	\$199,457	\$0
FTE	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0
Health, Life, and Dental	15,393	16,328	17,187	(859)
Short-term Disability	374	379	379	0
S.B. 04-257 AED	6,803	7,586	7,586	0
S.B. 06-235 SAED	6,378	7,327	7,327	0
Salary Survey	4,567	1,946	1,946	0
Merit Pay	1,827	1,969	1,969	0
Operating Expenses	23,143	29,777	29,277	500
General Fund	21,843	29,777	29,277	500
Cash Funds 1/	1,300	0	0	0
Legal Services 2/	176,931	185,347	178,218	7,129
Hours	1,787.0	1,872.0	1,800.0	72.0
TOTAL	\$353,393	\$450,116	\$443,346	\$6,770
FTE	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0
General Fund	352,093	450,116	443,346	6,770
FTE	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0
Cash Funds	1,300	0	0	0

1/ The adjusted appropriation includes a \$1,300 cash funds appropriation recommended by JBC staff but not yet approved by the JBC.

2/ Both the requested and recommended dollar amounts are based on the FY 2014-15 hourly rate (\$99.01). Ultimately staff will apply the hourly rate established by the JBC for FY 2015-16.

Staff's revised recommendation totals \$443,346 General Fund, including:

- a total of \$235,851 to maintain funding for the Executive Director (\$141,690 with benefits), a second staff position (\$90,152 with benefits), and professional services (\$4,009)
- \$29,277 to cover annual office operating expenses, Commissioner travel expenses, and one-time funding to purchase five laptop computers for the Commissioners (\$7,500);
- funding sufficient to purchase 1,800 hours of legal services (the equivalent of 1.0 FTE at the Department of Law).

Finally, please note that the FY 2014-15 appropriation above reflects a mid-year adjustment that reduced the Personal Services line item by \$75,086 to cover increases in Operating Expenses (\$5,086) and Legal Services (\$70,000). This funding is not needed for personal services in the current fiscal year due to both of the Commission's staff positions being vacant for a portion of FY 2014-15.