

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

The subcommittee meeting was called to order by Representative Brann at 3:30 p.m.

Roll was taken: Present - Representatives Brann, Lightner, Yaroch, Maddock, Brixie, Pagan, and Hammoud
Absent - None

I. Approval of Minutes from Previous Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was moved by Representative Lightner to approve minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on February 19, 2019. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

II. Overview of the FY 2019-20 Judiciary Budget Request

Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, appeared before the subcommittee to give an overview presentation on the state's judiciary system and the FY 2019-20 budget request.

She discussed key themes of independence, accessibility, engagement, and efficiency. She described the complicated structure of the judicial system, and SCAO's responsibilities and initiatives. She highlighted judiciary's accomplishments and described new proposals included in the FY 2019-20 executive budget recommendation. She discussed the importance of measuring performance and adopting best practices to improve outcomes; the importance of reengineering courts to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and save money; and the importance of implementing new technology to increase and improve access. In particular, she discussed jury management, problem solving courts, community dispute resolution, savings resulting from changes in judgeships and videoconferencing, e-filing, and legal self-help centers. The three primary funding requests for next fiscal year are for cybersecurity, pretrial risk assessment, and online dispute resolution services. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

III. Overview of the Court of Appeals

Chief Judge Christopher Murray, Chief Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals, appeared before the subcommittee. He gave an overview presentation on the Court of Appeals. Primarily, he focused on the importance of timeliness and efficiency in the handling of court cases. Also, he discussed movement of the Court of Claims to the Court of Appeals. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

IV. Announce Next Subcommittee Meeting

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 after session. The meeting will be held in Room 308 of the House Office Building. Agenda: Presentation on the Problem-Solving Courts and the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program.

V. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, Representative Brann adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 4:15 p.m.