

PUBLIC ACTS, 2008 SESSION

NO. 192

Sec. 5.101.1. Judiciary (Sec. 2.105, #2120000000)

(a) The general assembly recognizes that the allocation of resources in the judiciary, including judges and staff and operating expenses, is controlled to a great degree by statute and does not always allow flexibility to meet the judiciary's constitutional responsibilities in the most efficient and effective manner. The general assembly also recognizes that new technologies, including video transmission and electronic documents and filing, provide opportunities to increase efficiency while maintaining or improving access to judicial proceedings. In order to develop specific proposals for consideration of the general assembly, the general assembly requests the supreme court to appoint and convene a commission on judicial operation to consist of members representing the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government and persons representing the citizens of Vermont in a number to be determined by the court. The chief justice shall appoint the chair. The commission shall expire on June 30, 2010. The commission may obtain funding to contract for staff and research support. The commission shall from time to time make recommendations by report to the senate and house committees on judiciary, and appropriations, the house committee on corrections and institutions, and the senate committee on government operations. By January 15, 2009, the commission shall report to those committees with specific proposals regarding subdivision (1) of this section with accompanying draft legislation to implement those proposals, and by January 15, 2010 shall address all the following areas:

(1) Consolidation of staff, including clerks of courts, paid by the state within the judiciary budget and consolidation of staff functions across courts in individual counties and statewide;

(2) Regionalization of court administrative functions, both those now performed at the state level and those performed at the county level;

(3) Use of technology, including video technology, to reduce unnecessary expenditures, including transport of prisoners, while improving access and maintaining the quality of adjudication;

(4) Flexibility in use of resources to respond to the demands on the judiciary overall and particularly in instances where the amount and nature of demand changes;

(5) Reallocation of jurisdiction between courts, consistent with effective and efficient operation; and

(6) Any other idea for the efficient and effective delivery of judicial services.

(b) \$30,000 of this appropriation shall be used for the Vermont sentencing commission recidivism rate analysis by the center for justice research.

Sec. 5.102. Sheriffs (Sec. 2.108, #2130200000)