Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	X	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*	X	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*		Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*	X	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
		Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Kimberly Buckley	(803) 734-3771	KBuckley@scag.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Madeline Ross	(803) 734-6113	mross@scag.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY FY 2027-2028 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:	Alan Wilson 10/27/26	
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Alan Wilson	

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office
Agency Code:	E200
Section:	59

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B2 - Non-Recurring	ICAC Evidence Storage for CSAM Case Matters	3,000,000	0	0	0	3,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	VAMPF Assistant Attorney General (1) , Paralegal (1), Investigators (2) and MFCU Gant Match Funding	400,000	0	0	0	400,000	0.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	4.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Implementation of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) Product Directory pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 44-95-65	567,296	0	0	0	567,296	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
4	B1 - Recurring	VCCRU Coordinator and Special Investigator funding	386,554	0	0	0	386,554	3.00	0.00	-1.00	0.00	2.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Dennis Building Rent	750,000	0	0	0	750,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Paralegal	107,584	0	0	0	107,584	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
7	B1 - Recurring	Executive Governance, Risk & Compliance Attorney	198,811	0	0	0	198,811	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
8	B1 - Recurring	SVP Assistant Attorney General	156,143	0	0	0	156,143	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
9	B1 - Recurring	Expert witness funding for Criminal Prosecution and Appeals	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	B1 - Recurring	State Grand Jury Special Investigator and Assistant Attorney General	298,644	0	0	0	298,644	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
11	B1 - Recurring	General Counsel & Solicitor General - Assistant Solicitor General (1) and Paralegal (1)	306,395	0	0	0	306,395	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
12	B1 - Recurring	Criminal Appeals Assistant Attorney General	156,143	0	0	0	156,143	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
13	B1 - Recurring	General & Special Prosecution -	156,143	0	0	0	156,143	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

		Violent Crimes Prosecutor									
14	B1 - Recurring	Human Resources Coordinator	97,934	0	0	0	97,934	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
15	B1 - Recurring	Securities Regulation & Enforcement - Senior Securities Auditor	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
16	B1 - Recurring	IT Technical Support Specialist & System Engineer	249,571	0	0	0	249,571	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
17	B1 - Recurring	Complex Criminal Cooperating Witness Assistance Program	130,000	0	0	0	130,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	B1 - Recurring	Attorney Recruitment and Retention - Longevity Salary Increases	784,700	0	0	0	784,700	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	B1 - Recurring	Attorney Recruitment and Retention - SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Student Loan Program (This is a supportive budget ask for the Attorney General's Office)	3,000,000	0	0	0	3,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			10,845,918	0	0	0	10,845,918	18.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	22.00

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**2**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**VAMPF Assistant Attorney General (1) , Paralegal (1), Investigators (2) and MFCU Gant Match Funding**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $400,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $400,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**4.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The agency is requesting 4 FTEs VAMPF Assistant Attorney General, Paralegal, and 2 Investigators along with $400,000 in VAMPF MFCU Grant Match Funding.

VAMPF is overseen and funded 75% by Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG).

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

SC Attorney General's Office / Vulnerable Adults and Medicaid Provider Fraud (VAMPF)

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	unit. VAMPF is SC's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, a federally certified Unit required as a condition for participation in the Medicaid program.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	**VAMPF Assistant Attorney General (III) with Civil Experience, Paralegal, and (2) VAMPF Investigator IIs -** HHS-OIG annually recertifies all 563MFCUs as a condition of continued federal funding, evaluating each Unit against 12 performance standards. Standard 2 requires Units to employ staff "commensurate with... total Medicaid program expenditures" and sufficient "to effectively investigate and prosecute... an appropriate volume of case referrals and workload." Between 2023 and 2026, VAMPF has seen significant increases in its volume of referrals (120%) and cases (95%). Under the White House's Task Force to Eliminate Fraud Chaired by VP JD Vance, Staffing is one of the most frequently cited deficiencies across recent onsite inspections and recertification letters. (See AL, NY, CO, FL, ID, MN, NE, OK, SD, WI, MA, and CA Recertification letters). When staffing deficiencies are significant, OIG has moved from full recertification to conditional recertification with special conditions, requiring the Unit to submit a formal staffing plan (with specific positions, hiring timelines, and progress reports). SC seeks to proactively address its staffing size to ensure recertification and funding stability. HHS-OIG's FY 2025 linear regression analysis predicts SC's staff size range to be within 11 to 57 employees. VAMPF currently has 25 FTEs. **MRFU Grant Match Funding ($400,000) -** The agency is required to match 25% of the federal award from USDHHS for VAMPF MRFU Grant to remain certified for the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit award each year. To remain certified by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), the state must have an appropriation or cash on hand of these matching funds to remain complaint. Currently, the unit has approximately one year of match funding on hand. The General Assembly appropriated half of the required match in FY22 of $400,000 recurring. Recovery from settlements have funded the other portion of the required match. Recovery amounts remaining for future grant match is not sufficient to meet the OIG requirements. The agency is requesting the remaining half of required match (25%) through a recurring appropriation.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**3**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Implementation of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) Product Directory pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 44-95-65**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $567,296** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $567,296**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**3.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

There is not a current strategy in the most current Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of the agency's accountability report for the ENDS Directory as the legislation creating the ENDS Directory was recently enacted.

The requested funding would allow the Office to create an online portal to receive electronic certification submissions and to hire a Program Coordinator and two Attorney III's to implement the ENDS Directory and handle any related litigation.

The use of funds would be evaluated based on the status and success of the implementation of the ENDS Directory.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	The funds requested for the three new positions would be received by the Attorney General's Office. The funds requested for the online portal would be received by the Attorney General's Office to spend as necessary on vendors for creation of the portal and for any associated software costs or subscription fees.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	S.C. Code Ann. § 44-95-65 establishes a mandatory Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) Product Directory. The ENDS Directory requires manufacturers to submit annual certifications to the Attorney General's Office for approval. Under this law, directory approval will be required to sell or distribute any ENDS products in South Carolina, with denials of certification subject to appeal in the Administrative Law Court (Article 3, Chapter 23 of Title 1.) State and local law enforcement are empowered to enforce the ENDS Directory by seizing non-compliant ENDS products. All results from compliance checks must be reported to the Attorney General, who will compile the data and make it available to the public upon request. **(3) FTE Requests and Directory Management Software (Online Portal):** In order to carry out the responsibilities and duties of S.C. Code Ann. § 44-95-65, the Attorney General's Office is requesting three additional FTEs. Two Attorney III's and one Program Coordinator. **Attorney III ($151,142.50) –** This position will be the primary lead involving the regulatory oversight of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) by reviewing manufacturer certifications and making final determinations on their legal status. This position will be responsible for defending the Attorney General's certification denials by providing testimony in the Administrative Law Court (ALC). This position will be responsible for coordinating with state and local law enforcement on retailer and distributor compliance checks. Additionally, this position will manage the compliance data submitted by law enforcement and be responsible for communication with manufacturers regarding their certification requirements. **Attorney III ($151,142.50) –** This position will manage the legal actions for the Attorney General's Office. This position will defend the agency's enforcement decisions in the ALC. This position will include communicating with state and local law enforcement to pursue financial penalties in Civil or Bankruptcy Court, as well as collaborating with both internal and external counsel on complex constitutional litigation. This position will be responsible for handling the ALC cases brought in response to the Attorney General's certification denials. This position will also be responsible for drafting the necessary regulations to establish clear frameworks for state enforcement activities. **Program Coordinator ($115,011) –** This position will act as the project manager for the Attorney General's Office's managing of the ENDS Directory. The duties of this position will include complex regulatory administration. This position will manage the intake and initial review of manufacturer certifications to ensure the required information is sent. This position will also manage the intake of state and local law enforcement compliance checks. Additionally, this position will provide support regarding the ALC cases generated by certification denials, and for enforcement actions in Civil and Bankruptcy Court. **Directory Management Software ($150,000)** - In order to carry out the responsibilities and duties of S.C. Code Ann. § 44-95-65, the Attorney General's Office is requesting $150,000 to be spent on the creation of an online portal to receive electronic certification submissions and for any associated software costs or subscription fees.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

VCCRU Coordinator and Special Investigator funding

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $386,554

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $386,554

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

2.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Goal 1 Criminal Prosecution. The agency is requesting an Administrative Coordinator and an Investigator IV for the VCCRU division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting and Administrative Coordinator and (2) VCCRU Law Enforcement Investigators II (1 FTE New, 1 Current FTE transfer from Other to State - $285,002) for the VCCRU Division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	**VCCRU Administrative Coordinator ($101,552) -** The VCCRU was created and funded by the legislature in 2025 to reduce the violent crime case backlog in counties that request assistance. In the original organization there was no one to keep the different counties updated and organized and to check in with each attorney and support to make sure the dockets were complete and in order to be published by court administration and the statistics were kept updated through our spreadsheet as the information must be manually entered correctly and updated on almost a weekly basis. This position will assist with publishing notices for status conferences and trial dockets and provide statistics relating to the progress of the unit. We have had an intern develop this system, but her 25 hours are not nearly enough and she is unable to travel to ensure the status conferences and trial dockets are running as they should and propose any ideas or changes to make this new project run as efficiently as possible. In the last fiscal year, the unit has become fully staffed with four experienced trial attorneys and expanded to a second county. The attorneys, paralegals and investigators were working on 508 cases out of Sumter and in 2026 added 528 cases out of Darlington. The attorneys with the support of the paralegals and investigators tried 4 trials to jury verdict and fully prepped 4 others that pled at the trial. The unit has closed 308 charges in Sumter and 17 in Darlington. The pace of court keeps ramping up as they are hitting their stride. VCCRU needs a dedicated Administrative Coordinator to work with court administration and the team to keep the defense attorneys, defendants and prosecutors ready to appear at status conferences where there can be pleas and meaningful trial dates given. There are too many deadlines and preparation and discovery for anyone else to be handling this job and do it right. This position needs to be a full time FTE position. **(2) VCCRU Law Enforcement Investigators II (1 FTE New, 1 Current FTE transfer from Other to State -$285,002) -** VCCRU was originally designed to have two FTE Investigators. As the pace and the numbers pick up, it has become evident that we need two additional investigators who can focus on digital forensics as many of our cases have phones and other digital items as well as social media that need to be obtained, or if obtained were never fully reviewed. The investigators we have cannot sit in the office reviewing thousands of pages of information and terabytes of digital information while also finding witnesses and evidence, interviewing witnesses and victims and providing the support in court when the cases plea or go to trial to make sure victims, witnesses and evidence are where they need to be. This is even more apparent with two counties. VCCRU needs two Investigator IV positions with experience and the ability to work independently as well as a team to achieve all of the fast paced goals of the VCCRU unit. VCCRU currently only has 2 Investigator FTEs. The agency was able to temporarily hire an additional Investigator with a vacant earmarked FTE. The agency is requesting recurring stable state funding to continue with this Investigator position and for the earmarked FTE be transitioned to a state FTE. The agency is requesting one additional new state FTE with funding for the second investigator position needed.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Dennis Building Rent

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $750,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $750,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

All areas in the accountability report will be affected by funding. The Attorney General's Office is requesting recurring funding of $750,000 to help cover the additional rent costs of the Dennis Building. This building is owned by DOA. Funds will be used exclusively to cover rent expenses associated with the Dennis Building lease agreement with DOA.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The Attorney General's Office is requesting recurring funding of $750,000 to help cover the additional rent costs of the Dennis Building. This building is owned by DOA.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The Office received one-time funding for the rent this past year. However, one-time funding does not provide the stability needed to acquire additional space in the Rembert Dennis Building to support growth and functional needs. The one-time funding has helped short-term to address the initial increase; the Office is requesting the State's support to absorb the ongoing annualized cost. The Office is therefore requesting $750,000 recurring funds. The Attorney General's Office has taken over the first, second, and third floors of the Dennis Building since the Department of Natural Resources vacated the building in early January 2025. Due to revised lease terms, our annual rent has increased by $750,000. As rent is a fixed expense, recurring funding is required to ensure long-term stability. The requested funding is necessary to maintain current operations and services provided by our Office. The Dennis Building was originally constructed in 1952 for the South Carolina Highway Department and expanded in the 1970s. It has served various state functions over the decades. The building's current infrastructure, including electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and safety systems, is significantly outdated. These systems no longer meet modern standards for energy efficiency, occupant comfort, or safety, and many are at or beyond their expected lifespan. We still need to renovate large portions of the floors we have acquired. Renovating these systems is essential not only for compliance with building codes but also for reducing long-term operating costs.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Paralegal

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $107,584

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $107,584

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The agency is requesting a Paralegal for the ICAC Division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The requested funding will be utilized in the ICAC division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	ICAC Paralegal - We currently have funding for 2 paralegals in our section but recently one of the paralegals let us know that she is leaving her position. Part of the reason for leaving is the growing workload. Our section is receiving more cases each year, and each case has increased digital and computer related evidence that has to be provided as a part of the discovery process. As such, it is taking our paralegals more time to generate discovery and redact illegal images from what we send out.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Executive Governance, Risk & Compliance Attorney

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $198,811

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $198,811

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
X	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
X	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Executive Division (Office-wide need)

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

The funding will support the request for an FTE for the Executive Division/Solicitor

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	General.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The Office has identified a need for a dedicated governance and compliance position to provide central coordination and oversight of policy governance, AI governance, risk management, and related compliance functions. There is a need due to foreseeable complexity in policy creation and review, information technology governance, artificial intelligence (AI) management and oversight, cybersecurity requirements, and other operational compliance responsibilities. The Office has a responsibility to ensure that its policies, procedures, and use of AI tools are managed with complete oversight. The Office recognizes that these tasks will require ongoing review and coordination across the agency for best practices. This position would provide the necessary resources to coordinate these responsibilities, establish sound governance practices, help identify compliance risks, and ensure that policies and controls remain current with rapidly evolving technology. Additionally, this position would strengthen the Office's ability to build a solid governance framework while modernizing the Office towards emerging technology.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

8

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

SVP Assistant Attorney General

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $156,143

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $156,143

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Goal 1 Criminal Prosecution. The agency is requesting an Assistant Attorney General for the SVP division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting a new FTEs for the SVP division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	SVP Assistant Attorney General - Over the past fiscal year, the unit's caseload has increased significantly to the point where our ability to process cases has slowed. New periodic reviews that must be processed have average around 77 per year over the past four years. This last year alone we have 128 new reviews to process in the courts, and it is expected to remain at that level or higher in the coming years. Further, our release petitions have grown from an average of around 4.25 over the past four years to 62 this last fiscal year. That could translate to 40-50 additional trials. Additionally, the Office of Mental Health averaged 6.25 release authorizations over the past 4 years, and this past fiscal year OMH issued 96 release authorizations. Since the codification of SVP habeas actions, we have seen the average increase in habeas corpus actions from 5.3 per year to averaging 12 per year over the past 2 years, and they continue to grow. All of the above require multiple hearings in the circuit court and potentially jury trials. The SVP unit has no existing vacancies.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

9

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Expert witness funding for Criminal Prosecution and Appeals

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $100,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $100,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding would primarily support primarily the use of funding for experts in specific death penalty collateral litigation matters where mental health issues are contested. These would allow for the death penalty litigation to be prioritized and expedited and reflected in the assessment in those cases progress in the accountability report.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

Consultants, including psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrists, DNA experts, and statistical experts.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	This request is made to address in criminal litigation matters the need for funding of expert witnesses involving mental health, including consultants, including psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrist on a case by case basis when issues of mental health are presented when witnesses from state agencies, such as Office of Mental Health are either not authorized, available or conflicted, including capital cases, when issues related to mental health and developmental disabilities arise. In the criminal trial and PCR setting, this involves consultation and presentation with similar mental health and forensic witnesses and possible civil discovery depositions involving defense experts. The impact if funding is not received may cause delay in the actions or results that may required a retrial based upon the State's inability to contest the defense position on an expert-by-expert basis. They would lead to greater and potential unnecessary costs in a retrial.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

10

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

State Grand Jury Special Investigator and Assistant Attorney General

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $298,644

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $298,644

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

2.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Goal 1: Criminal Prosecution. The agency is requesting a Prosecutor for the State Grand Jury Division and a Special Investigator for the State Grand Jury Division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

The funding will support a Prosecutor in the State Grand Jury Division and Special

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Investigator in the State Grand Jury Division.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	**SGJ - Law Enforcement Investigator II ($142,501) and Attorney III ($156,143) -** The State Grand Jury Division has increased its caseload every fiscal year, frequently taking on new and more complex investigations. SGJ division has developed signature capabilities in investigating and prosecuting sophisticated gangs and organized crime, drug trafficking organizations, and white collar crimes (public corruption, embezzlement, securities fraud), to name a few. As these criminal enterprises adapt with technology to become more efficient, deadly, and profitable, so too must SGJ in its ability to identify, counter, and disrupt. The SGJ division has grown an increased case load which has created the need for additional prosecutorial and investigative resources to gather, process, and analyze the volume of information and data collected pursuant to an SGJ investigation, and successfully prosecute those cases. SGJ prosecutors are actively involved in leading these investigations, as well as prosecuting the indictments from SGJ investigations. Since 2020, the number of active SGJ-indicted charges has more than doubled to over 4400, and the data shows substantial increases of three and fourfold in days the SGJ is called or the amount of subpoenas issued in the past decade. Moreover, additional investigators are essential to the continued success of the division by supplementing our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners, being familiar with grand jury practice and procedures, and being co-located with and responsive to prosecutors. Investigators and analysts are instrumental in combing through the volumes of evidence collected, primarily in the form of cell phone downloads, financial data, social media downloads, open source information, and all documentation gathered by subpoena or search warrant.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

11

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

General Counsel & Solicitor General - Assistant Solicitor General (1) and Paralegal (1)

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $306,395

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $306,395

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

2.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The agency is requesting an Assistant Solicitor General (Attorney IV) and a Paralegal for the General Counsel & Solicitor General division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting 2 new FTEs for the General Counsel & Solicitor General division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	**Assistant Solicitor General (Attorney IV) ($198,811) -** The caseload of the Solicitor General Division continues to increase, and I expect the case volume to increase even more as we move into 2026-2027. By adding an additional attorney to our division, we will need to use outside counsel less, which in the long term renders significant cost savings to the agency. To illustrate this point, outside counsel in a complex constitutional challenge charged upwards of $200,000 two years ago just for briefing through a Preliminary Injunction Motion. Outside of constitutional challenges, a single amicus brief authored by outside counsel can easily cost upwards of $10,000. The increase also brings our division into line with more of our regional peers, who typically have must larger division's than our own. For example, the Missouri SG Division is staffed by a team of approximately 14 attorneys. Finally, talking to the Attorney General, I think he supports trying to grow our division to 4-5 dedicated, full time attorneys, and this additional FTE would get us to 4. **Paralegal ($107,584) -** The Solicitor General Division currently operates with 3 attorneys but without the assistance of a Paralegal. The caseload of the Solicitor General Division continues to increase and is expected to continue into 2026-2027. Additionally, the need for assistance will continue as more attorneys are added to the Division. The Solicitor General Division has requested an additional Assistant Solicitor General for the upcoming year. Providing the Solicitor General Division with a Paralegal would bring our division more in line with other divisions in the Attorney General's Office and the legal profession at large. And it would allow the attorneys in the Solicitor General Division to spend more of their time on substantive legal work rather than performing administrative tasks.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

12

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Criminal Appeals Assistant Attorney General

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $156,143

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $156,143

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Goal 1 Criminal Prosecution. The agency is requesting an Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Appeals division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting a new FTE for the Criminal Appeals Division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Criminal Appeals Assistant Attorney General - The basis for this request is an increase and normalization of the annual case load of the Criminal Appeals section. In the last pre-pandemic fiscal year, our section received 309 new cases and handled 82 merits briefs with a staff consisting of one supervising attorney along with eight -to-nine line attorneys. Those numbers were largely consistent with typical case number trends from preceding years. However, as a result of the pandemic, those numbers decreased in subsequent years, and our section's staffing levels trended downward in a manner consistent with the decrease in numbers. At present, the Criminal Appeals section is comprised of one supervising attorney, four line attorneys, and one open attorney position that is expected to be filled shortly. Despite that significant decrease in staff, our section received 329 new cases in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and handled 85 merits briefs. And, aside from those numbers, the Criminal Appeals section's case load was also higher than in pre-pandemic years based on new responsibilities in assisting the Post-Conviction Relief section with its appeals. The 2025-2026 fiscal years numbers represent a return to normalcy and will likely be matched or exceeded in the next fiscal year. Therefore, in order to ensure the Criminal Appeals section is able to continue meeting its responsibilities and representing the State in all non-murder criminal appeals statewide, I am requesting the two additional positions. The expected direct impact the lower staffing levels will have if not increased are: (1) a reduction in efficiency; (2) a higher risk of staff burnout and potential loss; and (3) a risk of lower quality output. Those risks are significant because the work our section does can and does have a direct impact on our state's precedential case law.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

13

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

General & Special Prosecution - Violent Crimes Prosecutor

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $156,143

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $156,143

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Goal 1 Criminal Prosecution. The agency is requesting a Violent Crimes Assistant Attorney General for the General and Special Prosecution Division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting a new FTE for the General and Special Prosecution Division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	**General & Special Prosecution - Violent Crimes Prosecutor (Attorney III) ($156,143) -** The office had a drastic increase in the number of murders that have been sent to our unit to prosecute as well as other violent crimes and do not have the staff to effectively and efficiently handle those cases. Additionally, the number of special victims cases our unit received in FY 2026 was over 400% of the cases our unit received in the previous FY. In FY 2025 we opened 74 special victims cases compared to the 316 special victims cases opened in FY 2026 with many of those cases involving multiple child sexual assault victims. These cases are much more likely to go to trial and we are in desperate need of another special victims prosecutor to assist in getting justice for those victims. The drastic increase in homicides, other violent crimes and special victims cases has created a substantial risk of losing the prosecution attorneys that we do have if we do not add additional prosecutors to assist with the current burdensome caseload.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

14

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Human Resources Coordinator

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $97,934

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $97,934

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The agency is requesting a Human Resources Coordinator for the Administration division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting a new FTE for the Administration division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	**HR Leave & Time Administrator/Payroll ($97,934) -**The Human Resources Section is requesting an additional Human Resources Coordinator position due to growth in agency personnel. The Office of the Attorney General has doubled in size since 2011, bringing the staff total to approximately 375. Four employees currently manage all aspects of human resources for the agency, including recruitment, outreach, onboarding, payroll, benefits, employee relations, internship program, and classification and compensation. The Society for Human Resources Management cites the average ratio of HR staff to employees is 1.7 per 100. The Attorney General's Office currently operates at 1.06 per 100. An additional staff member is critical to sustain operations and continue to provide timely and efficient support for employees. The right HR-to-employee ratio also ensures an HR team that is not only focused on tactical day-to-day work, but also on proactive approaches, strategic talent management, growth and development, which will improve employee satisfaction and lead to a more engaged and motivated workforce.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

15

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Securities Regulation & Enforcement - Senior Securities Auditor

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $0

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

1.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The agency is requesting a Senior Securities Auditor (Senior Auditor) for the Securities division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting a new FTE for the Securities division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	**Securities Regulation & Enforcement - Senior Securities Auditor (Senior Auditor) -** The Securities Division requires a new full-time investigator to maintain effective enforcement of the South Carolina Securities Act. The individual previously serving in this role was recently promoted to Chief Auditor, leaving a vacancy at a time when complaints, referrals, and complex financial fraud cases continue to rise. Adding a new investigator is essential to sustain timely casework, support ongoing enforcement actions, and ensure we continue meeting our statutory obligations to protect investors in South Carolina. The Attorney General's Office is requesting an Enforcement Specialist investigator with a strong financial analysis and investigatory background who will investigate complex securities cases and build strong cases for enforcement/regulatory actions. The Securities Division requires a new full-time investigator to maintain effective enforcement of the South Carolina Securities Act. The individual previously serving in this role was recently promoted to Chief Auditor, leaving a vacancy at a time when complaints, referrals, and complex financial fraud cases continue to rise. Adding a new investigator is essential to sustain timely casework, support ongoing enforcement actions, and ensure we continue meeting our statutory obligations to protect investors in South Carolina.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

16

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

IT Technical Support Specialist & System Engineer

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $249,571

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $249,571

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

2.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The agency is requesting an IT Technical Support Specialist & a System Engineer for the Administration division.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The agency is requesting two new FTE for the Administration division.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	IT Endpoint Technician I - Our organization's Helpdesk is presently staffed by four highly skilled Endpoint Technicians; however, the agency has experienced substantial growth in recent years, which has created challenges in maintaining the requisite level of support necessary to ensure optimal user productivity. We require the addition of one full-time Endpoint Technician I position to enable the team to sustain the delivery of essential Desktop Support, Software Support, and Mobile Device Support services. Systems Engineer I - Our organization's Server and Network Infrastructure is presently maintained by three exceptionally skilled Systems Engineers. However, given the agency's substantial expansion over recent years, the current team has encountered challenges in sustaining the requisite level of support necessary to ensure comprehensive security and operational continuity. We require an additional full-time Systems Engineer II (FTE) to augment the existing team's capacity to deliver critical Server and Security Patch Management, Network Configuration Services, and Hardware Support initiatives.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

17

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Complex Criminal Cooperating Witness Assistance Program

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $130,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $130,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Goal 1: Criminal Prosecution. The agency is $130,000 for Critical Witness Protection Program/Rehabilitation Funds in State Grand Jury Cases.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The funding is $130,000 for Witness Protection Program/Rehabilitation Funds for critical witnesses in State Grand Jury Cases.

FUNDS	

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The South Carolina Attorney General's Office requests discretionary funds to allow for the securing and protection of individuals identified as a "critical witness." A "critical witness" is any person who is participating in a criminal investigation, or has received a subpoena or who is reasonably expected to give testimony that is, in the judgment of the prosecuting officer, essential to a criminal investigation or proceeding or such person's relatives, guardians, friends or associates who are reasonably endangered by such person's participation in the criminal investigation or proceeding. Request also that these funds be used to protect "endangered" persons, defined as individuals who are placed in danger due to an association with the critical witness. Individuals who elect to cooperate with a criminal investigation may be associated with dangerous drug trafficking organizations and/or criminal gangs and are frequently subject and vulnerable to retaliation from co-conspirators. The State Grand Jury Division frequently investigates complex, resourceful, well-funded, and extremely dangerous criminal organizations. Cooperating witnesses are frequently concerned about threats against their persons and family members as a result of providing critical information to the SGJ. Accessible funds by SCAGO for the purpose of protecting and securing these "critical witnesses" will allow investigations to proceed uninhibited and securely, ensure the security and safety of all persons involved, and maintain in the integrity of the eventual prosecution of any charged conduct. The SGJ Division requests these funds to temporarily protect and secure critical witnesses to ensure the integrity of the case and at-risk cooperators' safety. Should funds be appropriated for the purpose of creating a South Carolina Witness Protection Program, internal policies and procedures should be adopted and implemented to safeguard and ensure the effective and appropriate distribution of funds.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**18**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Attorney Recruitment and Retention - Longevity Salary Increases**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $784,700** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $784,700**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Strategy: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Office of the Attorney General

Accountability – Efficient and Effective Court System: The goal of the requested funding is to support and maintain an efficient and effective court system in which cases come to fruition in a matter of months. The South Carolina Supreme Court's 2023 General Sessions Docket Management Order (Docket Management Order) begins: "In an efficient criminal justice system, cases should be disposed of within months instead of years, regardless of whether defendants go to trial, plead guilty, enter into a diversion program, or have their cases dismissed."

The Supreme Court order specifically recognized that there cannot be an efficient court system unless there are an adequate number of prosecutors and public defenders. Unfortunately, there is currently an attorney experience gap in the Office of the Attorney General. Our office is also experiencing hardship recruiting and retaining experienced attorneys. This funding will be utilized to retain and recruit critical attorney talent in these offices.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Funding will be used for qualified attorneys throughout the Office of Attorney General. Funds will be distributed for longevity salary increases for full-time attorneys once they have reached 5 or 10+ years of combined experience in the office. Eligible employees will receive a $10,000 salary increase after 5 years of qualifying service, and another $5,000 after 10 years of qualifying service. Distributions will require employment verification to prove longevity for each qualified employee.

This budget request is made in collaboration with the Commission on Indigent Defense and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination. Separate budget requests are being submitted by these agencies for the funding each requires to provide the proposed longevity salary increases for eligible attorneys and offices under their purview.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

$784,700 in recurring funding is requested to provide $10,000 longevity salary increases to eligible full-time attorneys in the Circuit Solicitors' offices, Circuit Public Defenders' offices, Office of Attorney General, Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC), and Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID) upon reaching 5 years of combined experience in one of these qualifying offices, and another $5,000 upon reaching 10 years of combined service:

$590,000 – Longevity Increases for an Estimated 44 Attorneys

$194,700 – Employer Contributions

$784,700 – RECURRING TOTAL

The Experience Gap Problem

There are currently 78 active full-time attorneys employed by the Office of Attorney General. 33 of them have less than 5 years' experience (Tier 1). 14 have between 5 and 9 years' experience (Tier 2). That is a 57% drop from Tier 1 to Tier 2. While Tier 3, attorneys with 10 to 14 years' experience, has the same number of attorneys as Tier 2, there is another 57% drop from Tier 3 to Tier 4. There are only 6 attorneys with 15 to 19 years' experience (Tier 4). Tier 5 contains 11 attorneys who have 20 or more years' experience, which is an 83% increase from Tier 4.

Attorneys who have less than five years' experience make up our largest tier. This means that 42% of our attorney staff are still training. After five years' experience, an attorney starts to become comfortable with more complex cases and can more efficiently and effectively process their caseload. The 56% reduction before they hit the Tier 2 mark further emphasizes our need to find creative retention initiatives to attract and retain developing Tier 1 talent so that they transition to a highly function, Tier 2+ attorney with the agency.

Tiers 2-4 are the largest groups *combined* and demonstrate the majority of our attorney staff are experienced and well-trained. However, there is a 66% decrease between Tier 1 and Tier 5 attorneys. There are only 11 expert-level attorneys that can mentor 33 trainee attorneys. With a full caseload, it's virtually impossible for the Tier 5 staff members to have meaningful time to mentor at 3:1 ratio. This staggering difference further emphasizes our need to attract, train, and retain Tier 1 talent as Tier 5 staff near retirement age.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

At the close of FY26, 15% of our attorney workforce was eligible for retirement, and 66 % of those eligible were serving in managerial roles. Over the next five years, the percentage of attorneys eligible for retirement is projected to rise to 25 %, with 50% of that group serving in management roles. And because their group is so small, we don't have a large pool of Tier 5 to choose from if one of them retires. If we do not address this experience gap, many of our most seasoned attorneys could retire before they are able to train and develop new talent and future leaders. This would result in a significant loss of institutional knowledge, leaving too few experienced staff to step into these critical roles.

A possible solution to this problem can be broken into two parts: Longevity salary increases for Tier 2 and Tier 3 experience levels and student loan forgiveness.

Attorney Retention Budget Request

The Office of Attorney General proposes that once an attorney in the office reaches 5 years' experience, the state provides a $10,000 raise regardless of their salary. Once an eligible attorney reaches 10 years' experience, the state provides another $5,000 raise. This incentive-based, longevity salary increase program will apply to attorneys in the Circuit Solicitors' offices, Circuit Public Defenders' offices, Office of Attorney General, Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC), and Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID), including the Executive Directors of the SCCPC and SCCID. Attorneys eligible for the initial "catch-up" longevity increase are those working full-time in one of the qualifying offices that have 5-9 or 10+ years' combined experience working full-time as an attorney licensed by the SC Bar in one or more of the qualifying offices.

Based on attorney staffing as of July 1, 2026, attorneys in the Attorney General's office with 5 to 9 years' experience would receive a $10,000 salary increase for which the associated fringe is $3,300 (total employer cost per attorney = $13,300). This is a $186,200 recurring budget expense ($13,300 x 14). Initially, other attorneys in the Attorney General's office that have at least 10 years' experience would receive a $15,000 salary increase for which the associated fringe is $4,950 (total employer cost per attorney = $19,950). There are 30 lawyers that fall into this category. Accordingly, this would be a recurring budget request ($19,950 x 30). Attorneys will have to provide employment verification to prove longevity for each qualified employee to get the associated distribution from the AGO.

Based on the above calculations, the AGO total recurring FY 28 budget request for Attorney Recruitment and Retention – Longevity Salary Increases is $784,700.

Future years' budget requests to continue these longevity incentives are projected to increase minimally based on attrition and the number of attorneys expected to reach the milestone of either 5 or 10 years of eligible service during the fiscal year. For example, based on July 1, 2026, attorney staffing in the Attorney General's Office, during FY 29, an estimated 8 attorneys are projected to reach 5 years' experience, and 2 attorneys are projected to reach 10 years' experience. In addition, after FY 28, catch-up longevity salary increase funding for attorneys with 10+ years' experience that missed the 5-year longevity increase will no longer be needed; so, new funding needed for attorneys reaching 10 years' experience in FY 29 and beyond would be $6,650 per attorney ($5,000 salary + $1,650 fringe). Based on these projections and assuming there is no attrition among attorneys with 5+ years' experience, the maximum FY 29 budget request for attorney longevity increases would be $119,700 ($90,000 salary; $29,700 fringe), which breaks down to $106,400 for those reaching 5 years of service ($13,300 x 8) plus $13,300 ($6,650 x 2) for those reaching 10 years of service.

The associated FY 28 budget requests for Longevity Salary Increases for attorneys in the Circuit Public Defenders' and Solicitors' offices, SCCID office, and SCCPS are being submitted by the SCCID and SCCPS separately.

Success Metric

This budget request does not require a new proviso to ensure success. The plan will show success if the number of attorneys in Tiers 1-4 grows, which will require additional funding from the General Assembly in the future. This request does, however, require a revision to Proviso 117.59 for the Executive Directors of the SCCPC and SCCID to receive the retention longevity increases. Without such a revision, other lawyers within these agencies will be making more than the Executive Directors because of the experience required of lawyers in these agencies to provide legal support and training for the Circuit Solicitors' and Circuit Public Defenders' offices.

Law School Recruitment – Student Loan Forgiveness

As is more fully discussed in the combined SCCPC, SCCID, and Office of Attorney General budget request for Attorney Recruitment and Retention – SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Student Loan Program, the SCCPC recommends creating a SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program that graduate students who are enrolled in an American Bar Association (ABA)-approved law school may apply for if they intend to work for five years of combined service in a Circuit Solicitor's office, a Circuit Public Defender's office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC), and/or the Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID) after graduation. The recipient of a loan is entitled to have up to one hundred percent of the loan amount (principal and accrued interest) forgiven if the loan recipient becomes an attorney licensed to practice law in South Carolina and is employed in South Carolina by one or more of these qualifying offices. The loan amount will be canceled at the rate of twenty percent per year of eligible service, and the entire loan amount will be canceled after five years of service.

If the student accepts the loan but, after graduating and passing the bar exam, does not work for five years in one of these qualifying offices, they will have to pay the loan back, including accrued interest.

The loan program, which is modeled after the SC Teachers Loan Program, will be developed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), in consultation with the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC) and the staff of the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation. The South Carolina Student Loan Corporation will administer the loan program. Loan amounts shall not exceed $35,000 a year for not more than three years or an aggregate maximum of $105,000.

Combined Effect of Longevity Increases and Student Loan Forgiveness

The SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program will incentivize a higher number of law school students to consider a career of public service as an attorney in one of the qualifying offices. The longevity increases guaranteed upon reaching 5 and 10 years of service will encourage loan recipients to stay employed by these offices after their loans are forgiven. Combined, these two incentive programs will help level the playing field with other employers seeking to hire law school graduates and prosecutors/attorneys, including municipal, federal and county offices as well as private law firms.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**19**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Attorney Recruitment and Retention - SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Student Loan Program (This is a supportive budget ask for the Attorney General's Office)**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $3,000,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $3,000,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding will be sent to and managed by the SC Student Loan Corporation. The Attorney General's Office is putting this in as a supportive budget ask.

Strategy: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor, Public Defender, and Attorney General.

Accountability – Efficient and Effective Court System: The goal of the requested funding is to support and maintain an efficient and effective court system in which cases come to fruition in a matter of months. The South Carolina Supreme Court's 2023 General Sessions Docket Management Order (Docket Management Order) begins: "In an efficient criminal justice system, cases should be disposed of within months instead of years, regardless of whether defendants go to trial, plead guilty, enter into a diversion program, or have their cases dismissed."

The Supreme Court order specifically recognized that there cannot be an efficient court system unless there are an adequate number of prosecutors and public

defenders. In recognition of these needs laid out in the Docket Management Order and the associated resources requested by the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC) and the Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID), the General Assembly provided recurring funding in its FY 24 Budget to hire additional prosecutors and public defenders. Since then, there has been a 28.3% reduction in indictments 3 years old and older statewide. Seven circuits have shown higher percentages.

An efficient and effective criminal justice system requires an adequate number of prosecutors and public defenders throughout the state. Unfortunately, it is difficult to attract graduating law school students to these critically needed positions serving the public in South Carolina's sixteen judicial circuits, all of which include rural counties and communities.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

This funding will be sent to and managed by the SC Student Loan Corporation. The Attorney General's Office is putting this in as a supportive budget ask.

Funding will be appropriated to the SC Student Loan Corporation for the establishment of the SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program. As administrator of the program, the SC Student Loan Corporation will approve graduate student loans for law school student enrolled in an American Bar Association (ABA)-approved law school that intend to work for five years of combined service in a Circuit Solicitor's office, a Circuit Public Defender's office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC), and/or the Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID) after graduation. Upon certification of enrollment, loan funds will be distributed by the SC Student Loan Corporation to the law school the student is enrolled at and applied to cost of attendance.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

This funding will be sent to and managed by the SC Student Loan Corporation. The Attorney General's Office is putting this in as a supportive budget ask.

This request is a combined initiative of the SCCPC, SCCID, and Office of Attorney General. The SCCPC recommends creating a forgivable graduate student loan program called the SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program, which will be modeled after the existing SC Teachers Loan Program and administered by the SC Student Loan Corporation. Loan amounts shall not exceed $35,000 a year for not more than three years or an aggregate maximum of $105,000 and will be awarded to eligible law school students that commit to working in South Carolina for five years at a Circuit Solicitor's Office, a Circuit Public Defender's Office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, or the Commission on Indigent Defense after graduation.

$3,000,000 in recurring funding is requested to provide forgivable student loans to up to 80 eligible law school students and to cover the administrative expenses of the SC Student Loan Corporation to operate the loan program:

$2,800,000 - 80 Law School Student x $35,000 Loan (1 year)

$200,000 - Program Administration Costs to Student Loan Corporation

$3,000,000 - TOTAL INITIAL ANNUAL COST

Based on the initial success of the forgivable student loan program, additional recurring funding may be requested in future years to increase the number of loans

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	that may be awarded to eligible law school students annually. The Commission on Higher Education (CHE), in consultation with the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the staff of the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation, shall develop a Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program to provide graduate students enrolled in an American Bar Association (ABA)-approved law school loans not to exceed $35,000 a year for not more than three years or an aggregate maximum loan amount of $105,000 to attend public or private law schools for the purpose of becoming a licensed attorney employed in this State by a Circuit Solicitor's Office, a Circuit Public Defender's Office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, or the Commission on Indigent Defense. The recipient of a loan is entitled to have up to one hundred percent of the amount of the loan plus the interest on the loan canceled if the loan recipient becomes an attorney licensed to practice in South Carolina and is employed in South Carolina by a Circuit Solicitor's Office, a Circuit Public Defender's Office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, or the Commission on Indigent Defense for at least five years. Any loan payments made before loan cancellation will not be reimbursed. It is the responsibility of the attorney to request loan cancellation through service in one or more of the aforementioned offices to the Student Loan Corporation. The loan will be canceled at the rate of twenty percent of the total principal amount of the loan plus interest on the unpaid balance for each complete year of public service in South Carolina at the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, a Circuit Solicitor's Office and/or a Circuit Public Defender's Office. In case of failure to make a scheduled repayment of an installment, failure to apply for cancellation or deferment of the loan on time, or noncompliance by a borrower with the intent of the loan, the entire unpaid indebtedness including accrued interest, at the option of CHE, shall become immediately due and payable. The interest rate shall equal the interest rate charged for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans to graduate students plus 2%, not to exceed 8.25%. The recipient shall execute the necessary legal documents to reflect his obligation and the terms and conditions of the loan. The loan program is to be administered by the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation (Corporation). Funds generated from repayments to the loan program must be retained in a separate account and utilized as a revolving account for the purpose of making additional loans. Funds appropriated for loans and administrative costs shall be provided to the State Treasurer for use by the Corporation. Recommendations for additional appropriations shall be provided by the Commission on Higher Education upon consultation with the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Commission on Indigent Defense, and the Office of Attorney General. The Corporation shall review the loan program annually and report to the General Assembly, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, and the Office of Attorney General. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, and the Office of Attorney General shall each compile a report annually that includes the number of loan recipients with outstanding loan balances that are working within their offices. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination’s report shall include data from the Circuit Solicitors’ Offices, and the Commission on Indigent Defense’s report shall include data from the Circuit Public Defenders’ Offices. Unexpended program funds from the prior fiscal year may be carried forward into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

ICAC Evidence Storage for CSAM Case Matters

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$3,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This budget request would allow us to Focus on our Strategic Plan 1.2 of the Accountability Report, which is to better "Investigate and Prosecute Technology-Related Child Exploitation Cases Across the State".

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

We would utilize a state contracted vendor to procure and install the hardware.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon

predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Our agency bears the responsibility for investigating and prosecuting child exploitation offenses throughout the State. The proliferation of digital media has substantially amplified our data storage requirements for maintaining evidentiary materials. Twelve plus months ago, our agency independently financed 1.9 Petabytes of storage infrastructure, which has currently reached 75% capacity utilization. Supplementary funding is essential to procure additional storage systems for preserving child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and related investigative data. Without this financial support, our cases face considerable jeopardy, as we will lack the necessary infrastructure to maintain this evidence throughout the entire duration of case proceedings.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	117.60 *Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").*
TITLE	GP: Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program *Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.*
BUDGET PROGRAM	TBD *Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.*
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program *Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.*
REQUESTED ACTION	Amend *Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.*
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	Commission on Indigent Defense, Office of Attorney General *Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?*
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	**AMEND - Proviso 117.63 (Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program)** Existing proviso requires development and implementation of a Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program by the Office of Attorney General, Prosecution Coordination Commission, and Commission on Indigent Defense, in consultation with the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation and the Commission on Higher Education. Allows full-time attorneys with more than three years of continuous service with the Office of Attorney General, SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination, SC Commission on Indigent Defense, a Circuit Solicitor's Office or a Circuit Public Defender's Office to be reimbursed up to $1,000 of student loan payments made in the preceding calendar year. Subsequent annual reimbursements may be increased by up to $1,000, not to exceed a total reimbursement of $5,000 in any year. Requires the program to be administered by the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation and administration costs to be paid with the funds appropriated. Further requires the Office of Attorney General, Prosecution Coordination Commission, Commission on Indigent Defense, and South Carolina Student Loan Corporation to submit reports on the number of applicants, impact on attracting and retaining attorneys, amount of reimbursements per entity and cost of administration to the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees by September 1. Allows unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year to be carried forward and used for the same purposes. **SCCPC REQUEST:** AMEND proviso to rename the program the "SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program." The revised program structure would establish a forgivable student loan program administered by the SC Student Loan Corporation similar in nature to the existing SC Teachers Loan Program. The program would provide a loan of $35,000 to an eligible law school student planning to work in South Carolina at a Circuit Solicitor's Office, a Circuit Public Defender's Office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, or the Commission on Indigent Defense after graduation. Eligible students could receive up to $35,000 each year for a maximum of three years, for an aggregate maximum of $105,000. Available loan program funds not spent during the fiscal year would be retained in a revolving account that would be used for the same purpose in the next fiscal year. A student's aggregate SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan amount (principal and accrued interest) will be cancelled at a rate of 20% for each year of public service as a license attorney in a qualifying office such that the entire loan amount will be cancelled after five years. Failure to work as a licensed attorney in a qualifying office will require repayment of the full amount borrowed plus accrued interest. The interest rate shall equal the interest rate charged for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans to graduate students plus 2%, not to exceed 8.25%.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

General Fund: $3,000,000 Recurring beginning in FY 28.

Federal: $0

Other: $0

The purpose of the loan program is to recruit law school student to work in public service as a lawyer in South Carolina at a Circuit Solicitor's Office, a Circuit Public Defender's Office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, or the Commission on Indigent Defense upon graduation and licensure by the SC Bar. Initial recurring funding of $2,800,000 would support the allocation of loans at the maximum allowable annual amount ($35,000) to 80 law school students plus up to $200,000 in administrative costs incurred by the SC Student Loan Corporation.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

Existing Proviso: 117.60. (GP: Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program) The Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall develop and implement a Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program for attorneys employed by the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, a Circuit Solicitor's Office or a Circuit Public Defender's Office.

After more than three years of continuous service as a full-time attorney with any of these entities, qualifying attorneys may be reimbursed up to $1,000 for payments made in the prior calendar year on outstanding law school loans. Reimbursements for law school loan payments may be increased by up to $1,000 for each additional year of continuous service; however, such reimbursements shall not exceed $5,000 in any year. The amount of law school loan payment reimbursement in any calendar year shall not exceed the amount of principal and interest paid on the loan in the prior calendar year. Reimbursements under the program may continue until all outstanding law school loans are satisfied; however, such reimbursements shall not exceed $40,000 per qualifying attorney. Reimbursements shall be adjusted if necessary so as not to exceed appropriations for the program.

The Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program must be administered by the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, which shall pay for the cost of administration within the funds appropriated.

The Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall each compile a report that includes, but is not limited to, the number of applicants and the impact of the program on attracting and retaining attorneys. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall also compile a report that includes, but is not limited to, the cost of administering the program as well as the amount of reimbursements per agency or entity. Such reports shall be submitted to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee by April first.

Unexpended program funds from the prior fiscal year may be carried forward into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Proposed Amendment: AMEND 117.60. ~~(GP: Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program)~~ ~~The Office of Attorney General, the Commission on~~

~~Prosecution Coordination, and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall develop and implement a Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program for attorneys employed by the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, a Circuit Solicitor's Office or a Circuit Public Defender's Office.~~

~~After more than three years of continuous service as a full-time attorney with any of these entities, qualifying attorneys may be reimbursed up to $1,000 for payments made in the prior calendar year on outstanding law school loans. Reimbursements for law school loan payments may be increased by up to $1,000 for each additional year of continuous service; however, such reimbursements shall not exceed $5,000 in any year. The amount of law school loan payment reimbursement in any calendar year shall not exceed the amount of principal and interest paid on the loan in the prior calendar year. Reimbursements under the program may continue until all outstanding law school loans are satisfied; however, such reimbursements shall not exceed $40,000 per qualifying attorney. Reimbursements shall be adjusted if necessary so as not to exceed appropriations for the program.~~

~~The Prosecutors and Defenders Public Service Incentive Program must be administered by the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, which shall pay for the cost of administration within the funds appropriated.~~

~~The Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, and the Commission on Indigent Defense shall each compile a report that includes, but is not limited to, the number of applicants and the impact of the program on attracting and retaining attorneys. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall also compile a report that includes, but is not limited to, the cost of administering the program as well as the amount of reimbursements per agency or entity. Such reports shall be submitted to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee by April first.~~

~~Unexpended program funds from the prior fiscal year may be carried forward into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.~~

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

(GP: SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program) The Commission on Higher Education (CHE), in consultation with the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and the staff of the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation, shall develop a Prosecutors and Public Defenders Loan Program to provide graduate students enrolled in an American Bar Association (ABA)-approved law school loans not to exceed $35,000 a year for not more than three years or an aggregate maximum loan amount of $105,000 to attend public or private law schools for the purpose of becoming a licensed attorney employed in this State by a Circuit Solicitor's Office, a Circuit Public Defender's Office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, or the Commission on Indigent Defense. The recipient of a loan is entitled to have up to one hundred percent of the amount of the loan plus the interest on the loan canceled if the loan recipient becomes an attorney licensed to practice in South Carolina and is employed in South Carolina by a Circuit Solicitor's Office, a Circuit Public Defender's Office, the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, or the Commission on Indigent Defense for at least five years. Any loan payments made before loan cancellation will not be reimbursed. It is the responsibility of the attorney to request loan cancellation through service in one or more of the aforementioned offices to the Student Loan Corporation.

The loan must be canceled at the rate of twenty percent of the total principal amount of the loan plus interest on the unpaid balance for each complete year of public service in South Carolina at the Office of Attorney General, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, a Circuit Solicitor's Office and/or a Circuit Public Defender's Office.

In case of failure to make a scheduled repayment of an installment, failure to apply for cancellation or deferment of the loan on time, or noncompliance by a borrower with the intent of the loan, the entire unpaid indebtedness including accrued interest, at the option of CHE, shall become immediately due and payable. The interest rate shall equal the interest rate charged for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans to graduate students plus 2%, not to exceed 8.25%.

The recipient shall execute the necessary legal documents to reflect his obligation and the terms and conditions of the loan. The loan program is to be administered by the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation (Corporation). Funds generated from repayments to the loan program must be retained in a separate account and utilized as a revolving account for the purpose of making additional loans. Funds appropriated for loans and administrative costs shall be provided to the State Treasurer for use by the Corporation. Recommendations for additional appropriations shall be provided by the Commission on Higher Education upon consultation with the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Commission on Indigent Defense, and the Office of Attorney General.

The Corporation shall review the loan program annually and report to the General Assembly, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, and the Office of Attorney General. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination, the Commission on Indigent Defense, and the Office of Attorney General shall each compile a report annually that includes the number of loan recipients with outstanding loan balances that are working within their offices. The Commission on Prosecution Coordination's report shall include data from the Circuit Solicitors' Offices, and the Commission on Indigent Defense's report shall include data from the Circuit Public Defenders' Offices.

Unexpended program funds from the prior fiscal year may be carried forward into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	59.New
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Carry Forward Authorization-Attorney Retention Program
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	Attorney Retention Program
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	Attorney Retention and Longevity Increases
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Add
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	The Office of Attorney General is creating a new state budget program to manage the funding request related to the *Attorney Retention and Longevity Increases.* The agency is requesting authorization to carry forward any remaining balance at year end in this special program into the next fiscal year to be utilized for the same purpose.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to this proviso.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

59.New (Carry Forward Authorization-Attorney Retention Program) Unexpended general funds remaining in the OAG Attorney Retention Program may be carried forward from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year to be expended for the same purposes by the Agency.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	59.X
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Witness Protection Program/Rehabilitation Funds
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	State Grand Jury
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	Witness Protection Program/Rehabilitation Funds (Priority 4)
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Add
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Proviso 59.NEW: The South Carolina Attorney General's Office requests discretionary funds to allow for the securing and protection of individuals identified as a "critical witness." A "critical witness" is any person who is participating in a criminal investigation, or has received a subpoena or who is reasonably expected to give testimony that is, in the judgment of the prosecuting officer, essential to a criminal investigation or proceeding or such person's relatives, guardians, friends or associates who are reasonably endangered by such person's participation in the criminal investigation or proceeding. The SCOAG also request that these funds be used to protect "endangered" persons, defined as individuals who are placed in danger due to an association with the critical witness. Individuals who elect to cooperate with a criminal investigation may be associated with dangerous drug trafficking organizations and/or criminal gangs and are frequently subject and vulnerable to retaliation from co-conspirators. Cooperating witnesses are frequently concerned about threats against their persons and family members as a result of providing critical information to the SGJ. Accessible funds by SCAGO for the purpose of protecting and securing these "critical witnesses" will allow investigations to proceed uninhibited and securely, ensure the security and safety of all persons involved, and maintain in the integrity of the eventual prosecution of any charged conduct

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

Goal 1 Criminal Prosecution in our Accountability Report. The agency is requesting $130,000 for Complex Criminal Investigation Cooperating Witness Assistance Program in State Grand Jury Cases.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

(59.XAttorney General's Witness Protection Program and Rehabilitation Funds): In the current fiscal year, of the funds appropriated, shall be used to cover costs for eligible witness and their families who may be in danger because of their cooperation with the investigation and prosecution of serious, most serious, or violent offenses, or a crime under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina State Grand Jury. This funding shall be used to provide temporary and limited assistance to material cooperating witnesses to defray the costs associated with their ability to safely serve as a witness, including, but not limited to, lodging, transportation, food, mental health treatment, and relocation expenses. The funds may only be used by the Attorney General's Office for established cost approved through the SCOAG program. Any remaining funds may be carried forward into the next fiscal year and used for the same purpose.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan – 3% Cost Reductions
AMOUNT	$1,046,541 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	Temporary personnel would be reduced from the Agency's state and earmarked budget. Any associated permanent FTE positions affected by the State funded decrease would be reallocated to earmarked funding currently used for these temporary positions. *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	The agency would implement cost-saving measures that would include reducing the number of law clerks, interns, and temporary positions from state and earmarked funding and then reallocating existing state FTE positions affected by the reductions to earmarked funding sources. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	Reducing temporary personnel could impact time for case review, trial preparations, and other administrative operations.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

A 3% reduction to the general fund appropriate would negatively impact on current non-FTE, temporary, and contract positions. These positions include staff attorneys and support personnel. Reducing these positions could potentially impact time required for case review, trial preparation, and other administrative operations.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Attorney General's Office		
Agency Code:	E200	Section:	59

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Revisions to the State Medicaid Fraud Control Regulations

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	Please see summary section.

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	**Mark "X" for all that apply:**
X	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
X	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Review and analysis of the current Medicaid Fraud statutes in the State of SC and other State Medicaid Fraud Units.

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	n/a

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	SC Code § 43-7-90 , SC Code § 43-35-10 , SC Code § 43-7-60

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY	Proposed amendments to §43-7-60 would include a clarification to the definition of a provider to include services provided through Managed Care Organizations and penalties to reflect the amounts of fraudulent claims, similar to property crime statutes. - There is great interest by our taxpayers in combating fraud in the Medicaid program, and this updated statute would allow us to more effectively combat fraud. The current statute requires us to charge one count for each false claim, which is not in the best interest of judicial economy. A statute where we can aggregate the false claims into one charge will be much more efficient. This update also reflects the current Medicaid environment, with services being provided through Managed Care Organizations and not just the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Proposed amendments to §43-7-90 would allow us to use subpoenas in our investigations. - Much of the evidence uncovered during our investigations is stored in another state or in the cloud, so the ability to use a subpoena is paramount to our continued fight against fraud. Additionally, it is burdensome and an additional cost to taxpayers for our investigators to have to travel to the county where the fraud occurred in order to have a search warrant issued by a magistrate. This is a much more efficient use of time and

resources.

Proposed amendments to §43-35-10 would prohibit the unauthorized videotaping or recording of vulnerable adults.

- It is in the best interest of the people of South Carolina to protect our vulnerable adult population from harassment and abuse, and this amendment would close a perceived loophole in the Omnibus Adult Protection Act allowing unauthorized recording of these individuals.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?