Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028
Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

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

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

	For 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:	Lisa Catalanotto	(803) 343-0765	lisacatalanotto@cpc.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Coyet Greene	(803) 343-0765	cgreene@cpc.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed 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:	Lisa H. Catalanotto 9/11/2026	9/11/2026
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Lisa H. Catalanotto	Isaac McDuffie Stone, III

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

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination
Agency Code:	E210
Section:	60

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Attorney Recruitment and Retention - Longevity Salary Increases	5,067,300	0	0	0	5,067,300	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Attorney Recruitment and Retention - SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Student Loan Program	3,000,000	0	0	0	3,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Circuit Solicitor Technology and Digital Storage (Phase II)	2,540,000	0	0	0	2,540,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Circuit Solicitor State-Funded Administrative Assistant Salaries	141,947	0	0	0	141,947	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Agency Operating Increases	70,355	0	0	0	70,355	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Federal Funds Authorization Increase	0	255,494	0	0	255,494	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
TOTALS			10,819,602	255,494	0	0	11,075,096	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**1** *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: $5,067,300** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $5,067,300** *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 Offices of Solicitor.

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.

Efficiency, however, is not enough. We must also have an effective criminal justice system and for that there must be an adequate number of *experienced* prosecutors and public defenders. Unfortunately, there is currently an attorney experience gap in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor throughout South Carolina.

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 primarily distributed to the sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor with a portion being retained by the Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC). Funds will be distributed for longevity salary increases for full-time attorneys working in one or more qualifying office once they have reached 5 or 10+ years of combined experience in one of these offices. 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 Office of Attorney General. 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?

$5,067,300 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:

$3,810,000 – Longevity Increases for an Estimated 283 Attorneys

$1,257,300 – Employer Contributions

$5,067,300 – RECURRING TOTAL

The Experience Gap Problem

There are 431 full-time attorneys in the Circuit Solicitors' offices statewide. 153 of them have less than 5 years' experience (Tier 1). 87 have between 5 and 9 years' experience (Tier 2). That is a 43% drop from Tier 1 to Tier 2. There continues to be a drop in experience until 20+ years' experience (Tier 5). There are 62 prosecutors who have between 10 and 14 years' experience (Tier 3). There are only 43 with between 15 and 19 years' experience (Tier 4). Tier 5 is a larger group with 86 prosecutors.

Circuit prosecutors who have less than five years' experience are generally still being trained. Beyond five years' experience a prosecutor starts to become comfortable with more complex cases and can more efficiently and effectively process their caseload. If we do not address this experience gap, the 20 years plus group will retire and there will not be any prosecutors to take their place. If that happens, all prosecutors in South Carolina's Circuit Solicitor offices will have less than five years' experience.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

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 SCCPC proposes that once an attorney in a Circuit Solicitor's or the SCCPC 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 a 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, 87 attorneys in the Circuit Solicitors' offices and the SCCPC office 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 $1,157,100 recurring budget expense ($13,300 x 87). Initially, other attorneys in the Circuit Solicitors' and SCCPC offices 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 196 lawyers that fall into this category. Accordingly, this would be a $3,910,200 recurring budget request ($19,950 x 196). Solicitors will have to provide employment verification to prove longevity for each qualified employee to get the associated distribution from the SCCPC.

Based on the above calculations, the SCCPC's total recurring FY 28 budget request for Attorney Recruitment and Retention – Longevity Salary Increases for the Circuit Solicitors' and SCCPC offices is $5,067,100.

Future years' budget requests, if any, to continue these longevity incentives will be significantly less and will be 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 Circuit Solicitors' and SCCPC offices, during FY 29 an estimated 26 attorneys are projected to reach 5 years' experience and 16 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 $452,200 ($340,000 salary; $112,200 fringe), which breaks down to $345,800 for those reaching 5 years of service ($13,300 x 26) plus $106,400 for those reaching 10 years of service.

The associated FY 28 budget requests for Longevity Salary Increases for attorneys in the Circuit Public Defenders' offices, SCCID office, and Office of Attorney General are being submitted by the SCCID and Attorney General 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 keep loan recipients in 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, 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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Attorney Recruitment and Retention - SC Prosecutors and Public Defenders Student Loan Program

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:	
	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

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

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?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

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 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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**3**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Circuit Solicitor Technology and Digital Storage (Phase II)**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $2,540,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $2,540,000**

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
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
X	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

Strategy: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor.

Accountability: Recurring technology funding for maintenance, support, and licensing expenses associated with software applications and systems and for increased data storage needs. Funding will enable the Offices of Circuit Solicitor to continue software service and use contracts and to increase and maintain adequate data storage.

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?

Funds will be distributed to the sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor for expenditure with

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	third-party IT vendors.

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	$5,080,000 in recurring funding was requested for FY 27 for maintenance, support, and licensing expenses associated with software applications and systems and for increased data storage needs in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. Half of that amount, or $2,540,000, was appropriated in the 2026 Appropriations Act for FY 27. The remaining $2,540,000 is now being requested for FY 28. In 2022 (FY 23), the General Assembly provided $9,600,000 in one-time funding for the replacement and upgrade of technology and software applications and for the initial maintenance, support and/or licensing expenses associated therewith. Recurring funding is now needed for the annual fees to continue these services, including cost increases and additional licenses. In addition, data storage and accessibility demands have continued to increase as digital evidence is now a substantial part of every criminal case. Recurring funding is needed to support increased costs for additional data storage and enhanced capabilities to securely collect, review, share, and receive digital evidence. The remainder of the funding originally requested for FY 27 is necessary to continue and/or acquire essential technology services to effectively manage cases and digital evidence. Annual IT services that recurring funds will be used for include: • Software maintenance and support • Application licenses and user fees • Cloud provider services • Additional data storage for digital evidence and case files • Interface / Integration connectivity • Transcription services

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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**4** *Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*
TITLE	**Circuit Solicitor State-Funded Administrative Assistant Salaries** *Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*
AMOUNT	**General: $141,947** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $141,947** *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
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 Offices of Solicitor.

Accountability: Recurring funding to support salary increases for the Circuit Solicitors' sixteen state-funded administrative assistant positions provided for pursuant to SC Code Section 1-7-325. Funding is necessary to recruit and retain qualified staff for these positions.

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?

Salaries will be paid directly to the sixteen statutory state-funded circuit

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	administrative assistants in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. Employer-paid fringe benefit costs will be paid to PEBA.

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	$141,947 in recurring funds ($102,993 Salary / $38,954 Fringe) will support salary increases for the Circuit Solicitors' state-funded administrative assistant positions to $55,000. The sixteen circuit administrative assistants are provided pursuant to Section 1-7-325 of the 1976 Code. All available funds in the Circuit Solicitors' allocation for administrative assistant salaries (currently $762,067) are exhausted, so there is no ability to increase the salaries for these FTEs. Increased funding for these positions was last provided for in the 2021 Appropriations Act. The funding is necessary so that the salaries of these state-funded positions are in line with the salaries of similar county-funded positions within the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. If funds are not received, the Circuit Solicitors will have difficulty finding and retaining qualified administrative assistants for these positions.

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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Agency Operating Increases

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $70,355

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $70,355

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
X	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

Strategy: Operate in an effective and efficient manner with available resources and seek funding for the additional staff and resources needed to accomplish the mission of the agency.

Strategy: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor.

Accountability: Recurring funding for the increased annual cost of Azure Cloud Services, DTO Network Support Services, and IRF Insurance Premiums. Funding will be used for the payment of DTO-provided network and Government Azure Cloud services to the Department of Administration and the payment of insurance premiums to the IRF. Funding will also support increased usage of Azure Cloud connectivity due to expanding interface between the Circuit Solicitors' case management systems and the SCCPC's database platforms.

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	Funds will be expended with the Department of Administration, Division of Technology Operations (DTO) and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, Insurance Reserve Fund (IRF).

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 goal of the requested funding is to support the increased cost of Azure Government Cloud services, DTO network support services, and IRF insurance premiums. The following is a summary of the expenses for which the SCCPC is seeking recurring funding:

- $42,000 – Cost increase for existing and expanded Azure cloud provider services (required to support development and operation of the SCCPC's database projects)
- $24,500 – Increased cost of DTO network support services
- $3,855 – Increased cost of IRF insurance premiums

TOTAL FY 28 REQUEST: $70,355

$42,000 in recurring funding is requested for Azure Government Cloud services which is required to support the ongoing development and the operation of the SCCPC's database projects. According to DTO, the industry standard expectation is that cloud storage fees at existing usage levels are expected to increase annually between 5-10% year over year. Additionally, another 5-10% annual increase associated with increased interface and automation for data collection efforts with the Offices of Circuit Solicitor is also anticipated. In total, a 10-20% increase in overall Azure Cloud costs is expected year over year moving forward. Through state funds provided in the 2022 and 2023 Appropriations Acts, the SCCPC receives a total of $77,000 in recurring funding for the services provided by DTO. The total cost for FY 27 is estimated to be $76,500, which considers a 15% increase over the actual cost for the 12-month period between August 2025 – July 2026. Based on a 15% annual increase each year, the estimated average annual cost of these services over the next five years is $119,0000. Thus, the difference between the anticipated annual cost from FY 28-FY 32 minus existing funding appropriated for these services ($119,000 - $77,000) is $42,000. These services are provided through DTO.

Additional recurring funding of $24,500 is needed to support the increased annual cost of IT network and desktop support and all associated services (other than Azure Government Cloud) provided by the Department of Administration, Division of Technology Operations (DTO). Through state funds provided in the 2015, 2022 and 2023 Appropriations Acts, the SCCPC receives a total of $46,500 in recurring funding for the services provided by DTO. The total cost for FY 27 is estimated to be $65,000, which takes into account a 3% increase over the actual cost in FY 26. Based on a 3% annual increase each year, the estimated average annual cost of these services over the next five years is $71,000. Thus, the difference between the anticipated annual cost from FY 28-FY 32 minus existing funding appropriated for these services ($71,000 - $46,500) is $24,500.

Finally, the SCCPC requests $3,855 in recurring funding for the increased annual cost of the agency's insurance coverage provided by the Insurance Reserve Fund. The SCCPC's insurance policies are for Data Processing, Automobile Liability, Buildings and Personal Property, and General (Tort) Liability. The annual premium increased from $66,060 for FY 23 to $69,915 for FY 27 without any significant increase in coverage.

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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**6** *Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*
TITLE	**Federal Funds Authorization Increase** *Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*
AMOUNT	**General: $0** **Federal: $255,494** **Other: $0** **Total: $255,494** *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:	
X	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

Strategy: Support the programmatic and administrative operations of the Offices of Solicitor.

Strategy: Develop, coordinate and conduct regular training and continuing education for Circuit Solicitors, prosecutors and staff.

Strategy: Improve accessibility of legal training and assistance to prosecution staff statewide.

Strategy: Develop, coordinate and conduct training for and provide technical assistance to prosecutors, law enforcement, and summary court judges related to Driving Under the Influence and traffic laws.

Accountability: A federal authorization increase is necessary to accommodate

additional grant funding awarded for the agency's existing grant-funded Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) Program. The additional funding is to support an additional attorney position for the TSRP Program, which will allow for expanded delivery of core services, access to legal training, and administrative and programmatic support for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor.

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

SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC)

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 Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC) is requesting an increase of **$255,494** in federal funds authorization to support the 2026 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant award for the SCCPC's **Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) Program** by the SC Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety Programs (OHSP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2027.

The SCCPC's TSRP Program has been fully funded through NHTSA grant funds awarded through OSHP for over two decades. Until now, awarded funding has only supported one TSRP position plus program-related expenses. The 2026 award is more than double the amount awarded in previous years and is intended to support the addition of a second TSRP.

The purpose of the TSRP Program is to develop and conduct DUI and traffic law training programs. Additionally, the SCCPC's TSRP participates as a member of the South Carolina Impaired Driving Prevention Council (IDPC) and an ex-officio member of the SC MADD Advisory Board to coordinate with other stakeholders in supporting impaired driving prevention initiatives within South Carolina. The SCCPC's TSRP also attends and gives presentations at SC Law Enforcement Network (SCLEN) conferences and meetings throughout the state.

Approval of this request will provide SCCPC with the authorization necessary to fully utilize available increased federal funding to hire a second TSRP, which will significantly enhance SCCPC's ability to meet increasing statewide demands for prosecutorial training and technical assistance. The expanded program will allow the agency to provide more comprehensive coverage, increase statewide prosecutorial support for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, and strengthen partnerships with law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and traffic safety stakeholders. The addition of a second TSRP will also improve the agency's ability to develop and deliver specialized training programs that promote consistency and effectiveness in the prosecution of traffic-related offenses.

The SCCPC's current federal authorization is $311,383 to utilize grant funds for the agency's two long-standing grant programs: the TSRP Program and the John R. Justice Student Loan Forgiveness Program. No additional funding authorization is necessary for the operation of the John R. Justice Student Loan Forgiveness Program, only the TSRP Program. Additional authorization authority of $255,494 is required to administer the recently awarded grant for the TSRP Program and distribute funds in accordance with federal program requirements. This will increase the agency's total federal authorization authority from $311,383 to $547,472.

The following is a summary of the expenses for which additional federal grant funding was awarded:

- **$175,116 - Administration / Other Operating Expenses**
  - Salary for new TSRP and salary increase for existing TSRP
  - Increased training and operating expenses
- **$80,378 – Employee Benefits / Employer Contributions**
  - Fringe for new TSRP and fringe increase for existing TSRP

TOTAL FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION INCREASE: $255,494

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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	117.59
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	GP: CID & PCC Agency Head Salaries
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	I. Administration
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	Attorney Retention Longevity Increases
	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	SC Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID)
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	**AMEND – 117.59. (GP: CID & PCC Agency Head Salaries)** Existing proviso states that the hiring salaries and salary increases for the Executive Directors of the SCCPC and SCCID are subject to provisions related to agency heads covered by the Agency Head Salary Commission. **SCCPC REQUEST:** AMEND proviso to add that automatic salary increases applicable 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) shall also apply to the Executive Directors of the SCCPC and SCCID without approval or other action by the Agency Head Salary Commission. Without the requested revision, other lawyers within the SCCPC and SCCID will be making more than the Executive Directors because of the experience required of the lawyers in these agencies to provide legal support and training for the Circuit Solicitors' and Circuit Public Defenders' offices.

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: $40,500 – FY 28

$13,500 – FY 29

Federal: $0

Other: $0

The fiscal impact for FY 28 represents the Executive Director of the SCCID receiving a $20,000 attorney retention longevity increase and the Executive Director of the SCCPC receiving a $10,000 attorney retention longevity increase in FY 28. The Executive Director of the SCCPC will receive an additional $10,000 attorney retention longevity increase in FY 29. These increases are pursuant to the associated budget request for funding to implement Attorney Retention Longevity Increases for cumulative years of service as an attorney in one or more of the Circuit Solicitors' offices, Circuit Public Defenders' offices, Office of Attorney General, Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC), and Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID).

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

Existing Proviso: 117.59. (GP: CID & PCC Agency Head Salaries) All hiring salaries and salary increases for the agency heads of the Commission on Indigent Defense and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall be subject to all provisions related to agency heads covered by the Agency Head Salary Commission.

Proposed Amendment: AMEND 117.59. (GP: CID & PCC Agency Head Salaries) All hiring salaries and salary increases for the agency heads of the Commission on Indigent Defense and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall be subject to all provisions related to agency heads covered by the Agency Head Salary Commission ***except that automatic salary increases applicable to attorneys in the Circuit Solicitors' offices, Circuit Public Defenders' offices, Office of Attorney General, Commission on Prosecution Coordination, and Commission on Indigent Defense shall apply without approval or other action by the Agency Head Salary Commission.***

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

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~~

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

~~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.~~

(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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	60.3
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	II. Offices of Circuit Solicitor
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	Judicial Circuits State Support
	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	None
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	**AMEND - 60.3. (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support)** Existing proviso requires distribution of Judicial Circuits State Support Funding as follows: $8,432,961 distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census, and the remaining $4,659,041 distributed on a pro-rata basis in equal amounts. **SCCPC REQUEST:** AMEND proviso to increase the amounts referenced based on new funding requested and allocated in FY 28 for Circuit Solicitor Technology and Digital Storage (Phase II). The distributions under the current proviso total $13,092,002. With the additional recurring funding of $2,540,000, the adjusted new total recurring appropriation will be $15,632,002. For the additional new recurring funding of $2,540,000, the first $1,740,000 shall be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census. The remaining $800,000 shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis equally among the sixteen circuit solicitors. This will have the adjusted new total recurring appropriation of $15,632,002 distributed such that $10,172,961 will be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census, and the remaining $5,459,041 will be distributed on a pro-rata basis equally among the sixteen circuit solicitors.

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: $2,540,000 Recurring beginning in FY 28.

Federal: $0

Other: $0

The purpose of the additional recruitment and retention funding for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor is to hire and retain experienced prosecution staff. Funding will enable the Offices of Circuit Solicitor to meet the demands of court scheduling, ensure that justice is served in a timely manner, reduce backlogs, maintain the services and programs offered by the solicitors' offices, and reduce the number of law enforcement prosecutions in magistrate court for the protection and safety of communities across the State. $2,540,000 in new recurring funding will be distributed to the Circuit Solicitors with $1,740,000 to be distributed on a per capita basis, and the remaining $800,000 to be distributed between the sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor on a pro-rata basis equally.

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

Existing Proviso: 60.3. (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Judicial Circuits (16) State Support shall be apportioned among the circuits. The first $8,432,961 shall be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census. The next $4,659,041 shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis in equal amounts. Payment shall be made as soon after the beginning of each quarter as practical.

Proposed Amendment: AMEND 60.3. (PCC: Judicial Circuits State Support) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Judicial Circuits (16) State Support shall be apportioned among the circuits. The first ~~$8,432,961~~ ***$10,172,961*** shall be distributed on a per capita basis based upon the current official census. The next ~~$4,659,041~~ ***$5,459,041*** shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis in equal amounts. Payment shall be made as soon after the beginning of each quarter as practical.

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	60.7
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	PCC: CDV Prosecution
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	II. Offices of Circuit Solicitors
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	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	None
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	**AMEND - 60.7. (PCC: CDV Prosecution)** Existing proviso requires distribution of Criminal Domestic Violence Prosecution funding to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor on a pro-rata basis. **SCCPC REQUEST:** AMEND proviso to remove the annual reporting requirement and clarify that distribution of funding among the sixteen circuits is in equal amounts. The existing recurring funding is $1,600,000 and is distributed such that each circuit receives $100,000 annually. The number of annual reports required of the SCCPC by budget proviso or statute has grown to 46 reports, many of which are required by all state agencies. Additionally, there are 49 security policies each agency must develop and submit to the Department of Administration that must be reviewed and resubmitted either annually, bi-annually or tri-annually. The SCCPC Commission requested a review of all reporting requirements and identified those that should be considered for deletion either because the reports are not utilized by the General Assembly, or because the information required is not relevant or does not include related information that would be useful to the General Assembly or the public. The reporting requirement contained in this proviso is one that the SCCPC Commission has identified and recommends elimination of.

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: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $0

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

Existing Proviso: 60.7. (PCC: CDV Prosecution) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Criminal Domestic Violence Prosecution shall be apportioned among the circuits on a pro-rata basis. If not privileged information, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall collect and retain information and data regarding Criminal Domestic Violence Prosecution and shall include: the number of dispositions, types of dispositions and county in which the disposition took place and shall provide the General Assembly with an annual report no later than sixty days after the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Proposed Amendment: AMEND 60.7. (PCC: CDV Prosecution) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Criminal Domestic Violence Prosecution shall be apportioned among the circuits on a pro-rata basis ***in equal amounts.*** ~~If not privileged information, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall collect and retain information and data regarding Criminal Domestic Violence Prosecution and shall include: the number of dispositions, types of dispositions and county in which the disposition took place and shall provide the General Assembly with an annual report no later than sixty days after the conclusion of the fiscal year.~~

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

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	60.8
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	PCC: Establish Victim/Witness Program
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	II. Offices of Circuit Solicitors
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	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	Office of Attorney General
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	**AMEND - 60.8. (PCC: Establish Victim/Witness Program)** Existing proviso requires distribution of funding for Victim/Witness Assistance Programs to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor in equal amounts. **SCCPC REQUEST:** AMEND proviso to delete the annual reporting requirement contained therein. The elimination of the reporting requirement has been discussed with and agreed to by staff of the Attorney General's office. The Circuit Solicitors' offices would continue to provide directly to the Attorney General's office any victim/witness funding data that they don't already have and need. The number of annual reports required of the SCCPC by budget proviso or statute has grown to 46 reports, many of which are required by all state agencies. Additionally, there are 49 security policies each agency must develop and submit to the Department of Administration that must be reviewed and resubmitted either annually, bi-annually or tri-annually. The SCCPC Commission requested a review of all reporting requirements and identified those that should be considered for deletion either because the reports are not utilized by the General Assembly, or because the information required is not relevant or does not include related information that would be useful to the General Assembly or the public. The reporting requirement contained in this proviso is one that the SCCPC Commission has identified and recommends elimination of.

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: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $0

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

Existing Proviso: 60.8. (PCC: Establish Victim/Witness Program) The funds appropriated in this section for Victim/Witness Program must be equally divided among the judicial circuits, less any adjustments made for budget reductions. The funds for each circuit must be distributed to the solicitor's office of that circuit and only used by the solicitor for the purpose of establishing a Victim/Witness Program in the circuit which shall provide, but not be limited to, the following services:

(1) Make available to victims/witnesses information concerning their cases from filing in general sessions court through disposition.

(2) Keep the victim/witness informed of his rights and support his right to protection from intimidation.

(3) Inform victims/witnesses of and make appropriate referrals to available services such as medical, social, counseling, and victims' compensation services.

(4) Assist in the preparation of victims/witnesses for court.

(5) Provide assistance and support to the families or survivors of victims where appropriate.

(6) Provide any other necessary support services to victims/witnesses such as contact with employers or creditors.

(7) Promote public awareness of the program and services available for crime victims.

The funds may not be used for other victim-related services until the above functions are provided in an adequate manner.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amounts appropriated in this section for victim assistance programs in solicitors' offices shall be in addition to any amounts presently being provided by the county for these services and may not be used to supplant funding already allocated for such services. Any reduction by any county in funding for victim assistance programs in solicitors' offices shall result in a corresponding

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

decrease of state funds provided to the solicitors' office in that county for victim assistance services. Each solicitor's office shall submit an annual financial and programmatic report which describes the use of these funds. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on October first, for the preceding fiscal year.

Proposed Amendment: AMEND 60.8. (PCC: Establish Victim/Witness Program) The funds appropriated in this section for Victim/Witness Program must be equally divided among the judicial circuits, less any adjustments made for budget reductions. The funds for each circuit must be distributed to the solicitor's office of that circuit and only used by the solicitor for the purpose of establishing a Victim/Witness Program in the circuit which shall provide, but not be limited to, the following services:

(1) Make available to victims/witnesses information concerning their cases from filing in general sessions court through disposition.

(2) Keep the victim/witness informed of his rights and support his right to protection from intimidation.

(3) Inform victims/witnesses of and make appropriate referrals to available services such as medical, social, counseling, and victims' compensation services.

(4) Assist in the preparation of victims/witnesses for court.

(5) Provide assistance and support to the families or survivors of victims where appropriate.

(6) Provide any other necessary support services to victims/witnesses such as contact with employers or creditors.

(7) Promote public awareness of the program and services available for crime victims.

The funds may not be used for other victim-related services until the above functions are provided in an adequate manner.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amounts appropriated in this section for victim assistance programs in solicitors' offices shall be in addition to any amounts presently being provided by the county for these services and may not be used to supplant funding already allocated for such services. Any reduction by any county in funding for victim assistance programs in solicitors' offices shall result in a corresponding decrease of state funds provided to the solicitors' office in that county for victim assistance services. ~~**Each solicitor's office shall submit an annual financial and programmatic report which describes the use of these funds. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on October first, for the preceding fiscal year.**~~

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

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	60.9
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	PCC: DUI Prosecution
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	II. Offices of Circuit Solicitors
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A
	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	None
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	**AMEND - 60.9. (PCC: DUI Prosecution)** Existing proviso requires distribution of Driving Under the Influence Prosecution funding to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor on a pro-rata basis. **SCCPC REQUEST:** AMEND proviso to remove the annual reporting requirement and clarify that distribution of funding among the sixteen circuits is in equal amounts. The existing recurring funding is $1,179,041 and is distributed such that each circuit receives $73,690.06 annually. The number of annual reports required of the SCCPC by budget proviso or statute has grown to 46 reports, many of which are required by all state agencies. Additionally, there are 49 security policies each agency must develop and submit to the Department of Administration that must be reviewed and resubmitted either annually, bi-annually or tri-annually. The SCCPC Commission requested a review of all reporting requirements and identified those that should be considered for deletion either because the reports are not utilized by the General Assembly, or because the information required is not relevant or does not include related information that would be useful to the General Assembly or the public. The reporting requirement contained in this proviso is one that the SCCPC Commission has identified and recommends elimination of.

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: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $0

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

Existing Proviso: 60.9. (PCC: DUI Prosecution) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Driving Under the Influence Prosecution shall be apportioned among the circuits on a pro-rata basis. If not privileged information, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall collect and retain information and data regarding Driving Under the Influence Prosecution and shall include: the number of dispositions, types of dispositions and county in which the disposition took place and shall provide the General Assembly with an annual report no later than sixty days after the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Proposed Amendment: AMEND 60.9. (PCC: DUI Prosecution) The amount appropriated and authorized in this section for Driving Under the Influence Prosecution shall be apportioned among the circuits on a pro-rata basis ***in equal amounts.*** ~~If not privileged information, the Commission on Prosecution Coordination shall collect and retain information and data regarding Driving Under the Influence Prosecution and shall include: the number of dispositions, types of dispositions and county in which the disposition took place and shall provide the General Assembly with an annual report no later than sixty days after the conclusion of the fiscal year.~~

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

Agency Name:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

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

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$1,650,125 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	0 *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	The SCCPC retains only 4% of the state funds appropriated to the agency. The remainder is pass-through funding that is distributed as required to the Offices of Solicitor or other entities. The agency cannot absorb a 3% cut without the total elimination of staff and statutorily required support services for the Offices of Solicitor. Thus, a 3% General Fund Budget reduction would be taken from pass-through funding allocated to the Offices of Solicitor for attorney positions. A reduction in the State's prosecutors at a time when there is a critical need to increase the number of these positions would be devastating to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, and managing court schedules that are already difficult to manage would become more so. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	A 3% reduction in General Funds currently appropriated to the agency would have to be taken from pass-through funding for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. Only 4% of the appropriated funds sent to the SCCPC are retained by the agency with the remaining 96% being distributed to the sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor and the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families. Therefore, taking the reduction from the portion of funding retained by the SCCPC would result in elimination of all agency staff and operations. If the agency's budget is reduced by 3%, the amount distributed to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor would be cut by $1,650,125 and result in the loss of at least one attorney position in each circuit. Such a reduction in staffing would be an extremely difficult burden to bear at a time when additional attorney positions are required to manage existing caseloads and court schedules and would adversely impact the quality of justice received by the citizens of South Carolina.

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

The SCCPC retains only 4% of state funding allocated to the agency, with the remainder distributed to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor or other entities. Cost and operating expense reductions totaling $50,000 could not be sustained within the agency, which operates a single small office. As the workloads and staffing of the Offices of Solicitor continue to increase, additional responsibilities are being imposed upon prosecutors by the General Assembly and the courts, and the law and criminal procedure have become more complex, the service, training, project management, and reporting demands imposed upon the SCCPC have also increased. Any reduction in costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000 would be taken from the funds distributed to the Offices of Solicitor and adversely impact their prosecutions, programs, and services.

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:	Commission on Prosecution Coordination		
Agency Code:	E210	Section:	60

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Protection of Citizens and Communities through the Administration of Justice

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	Unknown

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:**
	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Survey of sixteen Offices of Circuit Solicitor

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	N/A

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

	The SCCPC is unable to identify any spending excess, fees, or fines that should be reduced, or any regulations that should be amended or eliminated. The SCCPC does not charge fees for the services provided; rather, it incurs expenses to provide its core services, and those expenses, particularly those related to technology and software, have increased, and continue to do so. The circuit solicitors receive revenue from fines and fees as directed by statute; however, those revenue collections have significantly declined. The five-year average annual revenue from court fines and fees distributions between FY 22 and FY 26 is $1,442,107 than the five-year average annual revenue before COVID (FY 15-19). The solicitors' revenue from court fees and fines, program participation fees, and application fees primarily support the solicitors' diversion and drug/treatment court programs. The revenue losses experienced have resulted in reductions in staff to support the operation of diversion and treatment court programs and the number of persons that can be admitted into and served by these programs. In addition to court fee revenue losses, solicitors' offices lose revenue from expungement application fees and diversion/drug court participation fees because of exemptions for payment of these fees. These programs must continue to operate with less revenue and cannot maintain adequate staffing for these programs as a result, which leads to declining participation in diversion programs and even further revenue losses. For

SUMMARY

expungements, the number of applications processed has increased while the revenue collected to process the applications has decreased.

Perhaps the biggest change in criminal justice over the past ten years has been the use of technology by criminals. Cell phone and social media use is prevalent in our society and criminals take advantage of it. They use cell phones and social media to plan, execute, photograph, and publish their crimes. They also use technology to threaten, bully and exploit people. The Offices of Circuit Solicitor must continually implement the most current technology advances to keep pace with the technology used by criminals. The lack of sophisticated technology not only hinders the ability of solicitors to combat crime, but it also causes decreased efficiency, accessibility to case files and tracking capability that further compounds the increase in docket backlog. Additionally, the Offices of Circuit Solicitor must have adequate numbers of prosecutors and staff to handle the increased volume of criminal cases and the ability to retain experience and talent to handle increasingly complex cases.

Graciously, since FY 23 the State has recognized the technology and staffing needs of the Offices of Solicitor through the state budget to begin addressing these challenges.

The state funding appropriated since FY 23 has made an impact with addressing docket backlog. The circuit solicitors have made significant strides towards increasing the number of warrants and cases that are disposed of each year. Their success in increasing the number of annual warrant dispositions has also resulted in a 13% reduction in docket backlog statewide between the start of FY 23 and the close of FY 26 according to Judicial Branch data.

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