

Act No. 125  
Public Acts of 2007  
Approved by the Governor  
October 31, 2007  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
October 31, 2007  
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 2007

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
94TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2007**

Introduced by Senator Cropsey

# ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 233

AN ACT to make appropriations for the judicial branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008; to provide for the expenditure of these appropriations; to place certain restrictions on the expenditure of these appropriations; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain officials and employees; to require certain reports; and to provide for the disposition of fees and other income received by the judicial branch.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

## PART 1

### LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Subject to the conditions set forth in this act, the amounts listed in this part are appropriated for the judicial branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, from the funds indicated in this part. The following is a summary of the appropriations in this part:

#### JUDICIARY

##### APPROPRIATION SUMMARY:

Full-time equated exempted positions.....	519.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....		\$	259,291,500
Interdepartmental grant revenues:			
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers .....			2,523,500
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION.....		\$	256,768,000
Federal revenues:			
Total federal revenues .....			4,626,400
Special revenue funds:			
Total local revenues .....			5,409,700
Total private revenues.....			842,500
Total other state restricted revenues .....			87,892,700
State general fund/general purpose .....		\$	157,996,700

##### Sec. 102. SUPREME COURT

Full-time equated exempted positions.....	245.0		
Supreme court administration—97.0 FTE positions.....		\$	10,941,500
Judicial institute—16.0 FTE positions.....			2,667,600
State court administrative office—62.0 FTE positions .....			10,285,600
Judicial information systems—18.0 FTE positions .....			3,179,200

		For Fiscal Year Ending Sept. 30, 2008
Direct trial court automation support—36.0 FTE positions.....	\$	5,409,700
Foster care review board—12.0 FTE positions.....		1,268,100
Community dispute resolution—4.0 FTE positions .....		2,291,600
Other federal grants.....		275,000
Drug treatment courts.....		4,678,800
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	40,997,100
Appropriated from:		
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
IDG from department of community health .....		1,800,000
IDG from state police - Michigan justice training fund.....		300,000
Federal revenues:		
DOJ, victims assistance programs.....		50,000
DOJ, drug court training and evaluation .....		300,000
DOT, national highway traffic safety administration .....		800,000
HHS, access and visitation grant .....		387,000
HHS, children's justice grant .....		206,300
HHS, court improvement project.....		1,160,000
HHS, title IV-D child support program.....		907,700
HHS, title IV-E foster care program .....		540,400
Other federal grant revenues.....		275,000
Special revenue funds:		
Local - user fees.....		5,409,700
Private .....		169,000
Private - interest on lawyers trust accounts.....		232,700
Private - state justice institute .....		370,800
Community dispute resolution fund.....		2,291,600
Law exam fees .....		482,100
Drug court fund .....		1,920,500
Miscellaneous revenue .....		227,900
Justice system fund .....		700,000
State court fund .....		339,000
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	22,127,400
<b>Sec. 103. COURT OF APPEALS</b>		
Full-time equated exempted positions.....		212.0
Court of appeals operations—212.0 FTE positions .....	\$	19,183,300
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	19,183,300
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Court filing/motion fees .....		1,958,500
Miscellaneous revenue .....		77,800
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	17,147,000
<b>Sec. 104. BRANCHWIDE APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
Full-time equated exempted positions.....		4.0
Branchwide appropriations—4.0 FTE positions .....	\$	7,767,300
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	\$	7,767,300
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	7,767,300
<b>Sec. 105. JUSTICES' AND JUDGES' COMPENSATION</b>		
Full-time judges positions.....		621.0
Supreme court justices' salaries—7.0 justices.....	\$	1,152,300
Court of appeals judges' salaries—28.0 judges .....		4,240,300
District court judges' state base salaries—258.0 judges .....		23,877,200
District court judicial salary standardization.....		11,796,800
Probate court judges' state base salaries—103.0 judges.....		9,627,900
Probate court judicial salary standardization.....		4,669,700

		For Fiscal Year Ending Sept. 30, 2008
Circuit court judges' state base salaries—225.0 judges .....	\$	20,817,200
Circuit court judicial salary standardization .....		10,105,000
Judges' retirement system defined contributions .....		3,359,300
OASI, social security .....		5,105,600
GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	94,751,300
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Court fee fund .....		7,090,200
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	87,661,100
<b>Sec. 106. JUDICIAL AGENCIES</b>		
Full-time equated exempted positions.....	8.0	
Judicial tenure commission—8.0 FTE positions .....	\$	989,300
GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	989,300
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	989,300
<b>Sec. 107. INDIGENT DEFENSE - CRIMINAL</b>		
Full-time equated exempted positions.....	50.0	
Appellate public defender program—42.0 FTE positions.....	\$	5,042,700
Appellate assigned counsel administration—8.0 FTE positions .....		878,100
GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	5,920,800
Appropriated from:		
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
IDG from state police - Michigan justice training fund.....		423,500
Special revenue funds:		
Private - interest on lawyers trust accounts .....		70,000
Miscellaneous revenue .....		113,100
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	5,314,200
<b>Sec. 108. INDIGENT CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE</b>		
Indigent civil legal assistance.....	\$	7,937,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	7,937,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
State court fund .....		7,937,000
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	0
<b>Sec. 109. TRIAL COURT OPERATIONS</b>		
Court equity fund reimbursements.....	\$	67,430,400
Judicial technology improvement fund .....		4,465,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	71,895,400
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Court equity fund .....		50,440,000
Judicial technology improvement fund .....		4,465,000
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	16,990,400
<b>Sec. 110. GRANTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>		
Drug case-flow program .....	\$	250,000
Drunk driving case-flow program.....		3,000,000
Juror compensation reimbursement.....		6,600,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION .....	\$	9,850,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Drug fund .....		250,000
Drunk driving fund.....		3,000,000
Juror compensation fund .....		6,600,000
State general fund/general purpose .....	\$	0

PART 2  
PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

**GENERAL SECTIONS**

Sec. 201. Pursuant to section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending from state resources under part 1 for fiscal year 2007-2008 is \$245,889,400.00 and state spending from state resources to be paid to local units of government for fiscal year 2007-2008 is estimated at \$123,725,200.00. The itemized statement below identifies appropriations from which spending to local units of government will occur:

**JUDICIARY**

**SUPREME COURT**

State court administrative office .....	\$	511,900
Drug treatment courts.....		4,419,100

**TRIAL COURT OPERATIONS**

Court equity fund reimbursements.....	\$	67,430,400
Judicial technology improvement fund .....		4,465,000

**JUSTICES' AND JUDGES' COMPENSATION**

District court judicial salary standardization .....	\$	11,796,800
Probate court judges' state base salaries.....		9,627,900
Probate court judicial salary standardization.....		4,669,700
Circuit court judicial salary standardization .....		10,105,000
Grant to OASI contribution fund, employers share, social security .....		849,400

**GRANTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Drunk driving case-flow program.....	\$	3,000,000
Drug case-flow program.....		250,000
Juror compensation reimbursement.....		6,600,000
TOTAL .....	\$	123,725,200

Sec. 202. (1) The appropriations authorized under this act are subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

(2) Funds appropriated in part 1 to an entity within the judicial branch shall not be expended or transferred to another account without written approval of the authorized agent of the judicial entity. If the authorized agent of the judicial entity notifies the state budget director of its approval of an expenditure or transfer, the state budget director shall immediately make the expenditure or transfer. The authorized judicial entity agent shall be designated by the chief justice of the supreme court.

Sec. 203. As used in this act:

- (a) "DOJ" means the United States department of justice.
- (b) "DOT" means the United States department of transportation.
- (c) "FTE" means full-time equated.
- (d) "HHS" means the United States department of health and human services.
- (e) "IDG" means interdepartmental grant.
- (f) "OASI" means old age survivor's insurance.

Sec. 204. The judicial branch shall not take disciplinary action against an employee for communicating with a member of the legislature or his or her staff.

Sec. 208. The reporting requirements of this act shall be completed with the approval of, and at the direction of, the supreme court. Unless otherwise specified, the judicial branch shall use the Internet to fulfill the reporting requirements of this act. This may include transmission of reports via electronic mail to the recipients identified for each reporting requirement or it may include placement of reports on an Internet or Intranet site.

Sec. 212. As a condition of expending appropriations made under part 1, the judicial branch shall receive and retain copies of all reports funded from appropriations in part 1 and shall follow federal and state guidelines for short-term and long-term retention of such reports and records.

Sec. 214. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used for the purchase of foreign goods or services, or both, if competitively priced and of comparable quality American goods or services, or both, are available. Preference should be given to goods or services, or both, manufactured or provided by Michigan businesses, if they are competitively priced and of comparable quality. In addition, preference should be given to goods or services, or both, that are manufactured or provided by Michigan businesses owned and operated by veterans, if they are competitively priced and of comparable quality.

Sec. 215. (1) Due to the current budgetary problems in this state, out-of-state travel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 shall be limited to situations in which 1 or more of the following conditions apply:

- (a) The travel is required by legal mandate or court order or for law enforcement purposes.
  - (b) The travel is necessary to protect the health or safety of Michigan citizens or visitors or to assist other states in similar circumstances.
  - (c) The travel is necessary to produce budgetary savings or to increase state revenues, including protecting existing federal funds or securing additional federal funds.
  - (d) The travel is necessary to comply with federal requirements.
  - (e) The travel is necessary to secure specialized training for staff that is not available within this state.
  - (f) The travel is financed entirely by federal or nonstate funds.
- (2) If out-of-state travel is necessary but does not meet 1 or more of the conditions in subsection (1), the chief justice or his or her designee may grant an exception to allow the travel. Any exceptions granted by the chief justice or his or her designee shall be reported on a monthly basis to the house and senate appropriations committees.

(3) Not later than January 1 of each year, the state court administrative office shall prepare a travel report listing all travel by judicial branch employees outside this state in the immediately preceding fiscal year that was funded in whole or in part with funds appropriated in the budget for the judicial branch. The report shall be submitted to the chairs and members of the house and senate appropriations committees, the fiscal agencies, and the state budget director. The report shall include the following information:

- (a) The name of each person receiving reimbursement for travel outside this state or whose travel costs were paid by this state.
- (b) The destination of each travel occurrence.
- (c) The dates of each travel occurrence.
- (d) A brief statement of the reason for each travel occurrence.
- (e) The transportation and related costs of each travel occurrence, including the proportion funded with state general fund/general purpose revenues, the proportion funded with state restricted revenues, the proportion funded with federal revenues, and the proportion funded with other revenues.
- (f) A total of all out-of-state travel funded for the immediately preceding fiscal year.

Sec. 216. (1) The judicial branch shall report no later than April 1, 2008 on each specific policy change made to implement a public act affecting the judicial branch that took effect during the prior calendar year to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on the judicial branch budget, the joint committee on administrative rules, and the senate and house fiscal agencies.

(2) Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used by the judicial branch to adopt a rule that will apply to a small business and that will have a disproportionate economic impact on small businesses because of the size of those businesses if the judicial branch fails to reduce the disproportionate economic impact of the rule on small businesses as provided under section 40 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.240.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Rule" means that term as defined under section 7 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.207.

(b) "Small business" means that term as defined under section 7a of the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.207a.

Sec. 217. From the funds appropriated in part 1, the chief justice shall implement continuous improvement efficiency mechanisms in the programs administered by the judicial branch. The continuous improvement efficiency mechanisms shall identify changes made in programs to increase efficiency and reduce expenditures in the programs. On March 31, 2008 and September 30, 2008, the chief justice shall submit a report to the state budget director, the senate and house appropriations subcommittees and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the progress made toward increased efficiencies in judicial branch programs. At a minimum, each report shall include information on the program review process, the type of improvement mechanisms implemented, and actual and projected expenditure savings as a result of the increased program efficiencies.

## **JUDICIAL BRANCH**

Sec. 301. (1) The direct trial court automation support program of the state court administrative office shall recover direct and overhead costs from trial courts by charging for services rendered. The fee shall cover the actual costs incurred to the direct trial court automation support program in providing the service, including development of future versions of case management systems. A report of amounts collected in excess of funds identified as user service charges in part 1 shall be submitted to the state budget director and to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on judiciary 30 days before expenditure by the direct trial court automation support program.

(2) From funds appropriated in part 1, the direct trial court automation support program of the state court administrative office shall provide to the state budget director, the senate and house appropriations committees, and the senate and house fiscal agencies before January 1 of each year, a detailed list of user service charges collected during the immediately preceding state fiscal year.

Sec. 302. Funds appropriated within the judicial branch shall not be expended by any component within the judicial branch without the approval of the supreme court.

Sec. 303. Of the amount appropriated in part 1 for the judicial branch, \$325,000.00 is allocated for circuit court reimbursement under section 3 of 1978 PA 16, MCL 800.453, and \$186,900.00 is allocated for court of claims reimbursement under section 6413 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.6413.

Sec. 304. As a condition of expending appropriations made under part 1, the judicial branch shall cooperate with the auditor general regarding audits of the judicial branch conducted under section 53 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963.

Sec. 305. As a condition of expending appropriations made under part 1, and to avoid the overexpenditure of funds appropriated under this act, the supreme court shall report quarterly to members of the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the judiciary, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director on the status of accounts set forth in part 1. The report required by this section shall include quarterly, year-to-date, and projected expenditures by funding source for each line item, and beginning balances and quarterly, year-to-date, and projected revenues for each source of revenue other than general fund/general purpose revenues.

Sec. 306. The supreme court and the state court administrative office shall continue to maintain, as a priority, the assisting of local trial courts in improving the collection of judgments.

Sec. 306a. By April 1, the state court administrative office shall submit a report regarding the feasibility of a pilot project for third-party collection of court-ordered fines, fees, and costs, including collection of victim restitution. The report shall be submitted to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on judiciary, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director.

Sec. 307. It is the intent of the legislature that from the funds appropriated in part 1 for court of appeals operations, the judiciary shall use the following revenue amounts for the purpose of delay reduction:

(a) \$225,000.00 of additional filing fee revenue raised from the increase from \$250.00 to \$375.00 in court of appeals filing fees under section 321(1)(a) of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.321.

(b) \$87,500.00 of additional fee revenue raised from the increase in court of appeals motion fees from \$75.00 to \$100.00 and from the increase from \$150.00 to \$200.00 in fees for motions for immediate consideration or expedited appeal under section 321(1)(b) and (c) of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.321.

Sec. 308. If sufficient funds are not available from the court fee fund to pay judges' compensation, the difference between the appropriated amount from that fund for judges' compensation and the actual amount available after the amount appropriated for trial court reimbursement is made shall be appropriated from the state general fund for judges' compensation.

Sec. 310. From the funds appropriated in part 1 for drug treatment court programs, with the approval of and at the discretion of the supreme court, the state court administrative office shall evaluate and collect data on the performance of drug treatment court programs. The state court administrative office shall provide an annual review of the performance of drug courts as prescribed in section 1078(6) of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.1078. All of the following apply to that annual review:

(a) It shall include measures of the impact of drug court programs in changing offender criminal involvement (recidivism) and substance abuse and in reducing prison admissions.

(b) It shall be completed no later than April 1 of each year and shall also be provided to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the judiciary, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director.

(c) The evaluation of a program funded with federal Byrne funds shall be consistent with the requirements contained in the federal Byrne grant for that program.

Sec. 311. (1) The funds appropriated in part 1 for drug treatment courts shall be administered by the state court administrative office to operate drug treatment court programs. A drug treatment court shall be responsible for handling cases involving substance abusing nonviolent offenders through comprehensive supervision, testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives. A drug treatment court shall use all available county and state personnel involved in the disposition of cases including, but not limited to, parole and probation agents, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, and community corrections providers. The funds may be used in connection with other federal, state, and local funding sources.

(2) Local units of government are encouraged to refer to federal drug treatment court guidelines to prepare proposals. However, federal agency approvals are not required for funding under this section.

(3) From the funds appropriated in part 1, the chief justice shall allocate sufficient funds for the judicial institute to provide in-state training for those identified in subsection (1), including training for new drug treatment court judges.

(4) For drug treatment court grants, consideration for priority may be given to those courts where higher instances of substance abuse cases are filed.

(5) The judiciary shall receive \$1,800,000.00 in Byrne formula grant funding as an interdepartmental grant from the department of community health to be used for expansion of drug treatment courts, to assist in avoiding prison bed space growth for nonviolent offenders in collaboration with the department of corrections.

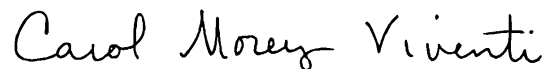
Sec. 312. From the funds appropriated in part 1, the state court administrator shall produce a statistical report regarding the implementation of the parental rights restoration act, 1990 PA 211, MCL 722.901 to 722.908, as it pertains to minors seeking a court-issued waiver of parental consent. The state court administrative office shall report the total number of petitions filed and the total number of petitions granted in accordance with section 208.

Sec. 314. By April 1, the state court administrative office shall submit a report regarding the impact of Halbert v Michigan, 125 S Ct 2582 (2005), and related cases on the court system to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on judiciary, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director.

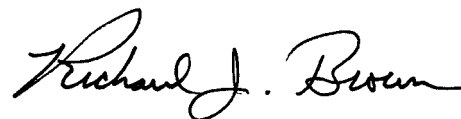
Sec. 316. The state court administrative office shall evaluate various strategies for court systems to use to better respond to defendants with mental illnesses. Such strategies may include, but not be limited to, mental health treatment courts, dedicated probation caseloads for people with mental illnesses, specialized pretrial release programs, and court-based diversion programs. The evaluation should consider the full range of problems that occur when people with mental illnesses enter the criminal justice system and factors such as key stakeholders, eligibility criteria, case processing, treatment options, funding sources, and disposition of cases upon program completion.

Sec. 317. Funds appropriated in part 1 shall not be used for the permanent assignment of state-owned vehicles to justices or judges or any other judicial branch employee. This section does not preclude the use of state-owned motor pool vehicles for state business in accordance with approved guidelines.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Secretary of the Senate



Clerk of the House of Representatives

Approved .....

.....  
Governor