

COMMENTARY OF THE GOVERNOR ON THE JUDICIARY

In accordance with Article VII, Section 1 of the State Constitution, I transmit herewith the appropriations requested by the Judiciary for fiscal year 2012-13. As required by the Constitution, I present the Judiciary budget as it has been submitted by the Chief Judge.

The Judiciary has requested appropriations of \$2.54 billion. Across all fund types, this reflects no growth from last year, and includes a decrease of \$3.9 million in General Fund appropriations. On a cash basis, the proposed Judiciary budget reflects a spending decrease of \$19.2 million (or 0.7 percent).

The budget submitted by the Chief Judge recognizes the ongoing budgetary pressures the State faces, addressing fiscal reality while supporting the courts' ability to uphold their constitutional duty. The budget as submitted both sustains the savings achieved last year, and holds the line on new spending. I commend the Judiciary for examining their operations and for continuing to seek to make the court system work better and smarter.