

April 9, 1979

LB 588

natives but essentially they are looking for ways to expedite the caseload without adding additional people to the court. Item 3 on the book was roughly a \$6,000 adjustment which really was no increase but it dealt with some postage that they used to receive and kept in their own cash funds but due to an audit those funds had to be placed in the general fund and this merely reflects that audit change. In fact it is not a change in the current continuation budget of the agency. The next one is district court. Again this is generally a continuation budget. The major increase considered by the committee is a \$75,800 increase in general fund for the addition of six probation officers. The agency originally requested fourteen plus four clerical staff but the committee is recommending only six of those probation officers at this time. We will have language and do have language in the intent bill urging the administrator of the probation system to thoroughly review the caseload of all of the probation officers across the state, coming in next time with some appropriate revision if after such a study. This has been discussed for the last couple of years but the committee, I think, feels that only this minimal increase ought to be provided until there is a better handle on the caseload and the other alternatives that might be used to adequately provide probation officers for those whom they supervise. The Governor's budget, his request as amended by the salary policy, the Lieutenant Governor is identical. The Secretary of State essentially has a continuation budget with just some minor adjustments for some equipment that was in his request. The Auditor of Public Accounts is also a continuation budget. There is some concern on the auditor's part that the recommended level of appropriation may not be adequate. The committee will be reviewing his concerns but much of it comes out of the fact that he had requested an 11 percent increase for some of the salaries of accountants which appear to be somewhat out of line. The committee did set his personal services limitation to permit that salary increase but did not provide the level of funding to do it. Or in other words, if there were savings that could be acquired by the agency during the year, they would then in turn be able to utilize those funds for those salary adjustments in their continuation budget next year. The Attorney General's office is essentially at their request although we did add over and above their request the transfer for a fraud unit from the Welfare, the Department of Welfare. This is funded by both federal funds and general fund money. It is a ten percent match of general fund money this year but the following year it would be a fifty-fifty match. This particular unit is looking at the vendors not the recipients of medicaid medical payments, looking for any inappropriate

3116