

LEGISLATURE

ITEMS 1-16 of the Budget Bill

Budget pages 7-13

For Support of the Legislature From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$2,925,768
Estimated to be expended in 1953-54 Fiscal Year	2,838,730
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Increase (3.1 percent)	\$87,038

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$2,925,768
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	2,925,768
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Reduction	None

ANALYSIS

The amounts requested by Items 1 through 16 of the Budget Act of 1954 will cover legislative expense during the General Session of 1955. In comparison with the expenditures during the 1952-53 Fiscal Year, the last General Session year, the estimated expenditures during the budget year of \$3,123,490 represents an increase of \$285,116, or 10.0 percent.

We recommend approval.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

ITEM 17 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 14
Budget line No. 6

For Support of the Legislative Counsel From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$396,979
Estimated to be expended in 1953-54 Fiscal Year	323,088
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Increase (22.8 percent)	\$73,891

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages	\$50,784	\$50,784	---	14	72
Operating expense	6,787	6,787	---	15	16
Equipment	447	447	---	15	24
Decreased reimbursements ..	15,873	15,873	---	15	30
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Total increase	\$73,891	\$73,891	---	15	32

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$396,979
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	396,979
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Reduction	None

ANALYSIS

The work load of the Legislative Counsel Bureau is related to the length of legislative sessions. The requested budget of \$396,979 provides for the longer period of a general session in comparison to the shorter budget session. The increase of \$73,891 or 22.8 percent is in line with the additional amount required by the Legislative Counsel for the General Session of 1953. The largest part of the increase requested for the long session is for temporary office and clerical help. Operating expenses are also increased by \$6,787.

Legislative Counsel Bureau—Continued

The estimated reimbursements from other agencies are reduced by \$15,873. It should also be noted that there are no reimbursements for services to the Code Commission since it was abolished by the 1953 General Session of the Legislature. In the same legislation which abolished the Code Commission, the Legislature transferred the function to the Legislative Counsel, and the carrying on of this work is reflected in 1954-55. The lack of reimbursement for services of revising and codifying the statutes has been replaced by an allocation from the Emergency Fund for the current fiscal year.

COMMISSION ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS

ITEM 18 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 18
Budget line No. 7

For Support of the Commission on Uniform State Laws From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$7,100
Estimated to be expended in 1953-54 Fiscal Year	5,650
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Increase (25.8 percent)	\$1,450

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages	\$1,200	—\$1,200	\$2,400	18	38
Operating expense	250	—	250	18	48
Equipment	—	—	—		
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Total increase	\$1,450	—\$1,200	\$2,650	18	50

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$7,100
Legislative Auditor's recommendation	4,450
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Reduction	\$2,650

ANALYSIS

Summary of Recommended Reductions

	Amount	Budget page	Line No.
Counsel (part time)	\$2,400	18	36
Operating expenses—office	250	18	41
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	\$2,650		

The increase in the amount requested for Fiscal Year 1954-55 is \$1,450 or 25.8 percent above the estimated amount to be expended in 1953-54. The actual amount budgeted for 1954-55 over the amount appropriated for 1953-54 is \$2,650. The difference is due to an allocation from the Emergency Fund for the employment of consultant services in the current year.

In 1952-53 the amount of \$6,360 was approved for the services of a full-time counsel. This position of counsel was not requested in the current Fiscal Year 1953-54 and was not proposed for continuance for more than one year at the time it was originally requested. Since the

Commission on Uniform State Laws—Continued

Uniform Code was not passed at the 1953 Regular Session, the commission is requesting part-time counsel services to continue the activities of the commission and assist in submitting the proposed Uniform Commercial Code to the 1955 Session of the Legislature.

The position of this office as stated in the Analysis of the Budget Bill for 1952-53 with regard to the creation of the counsel position, was that it be approved only for the year of 1952-53 and that the position be terminated thereafter, whether or not the Uniform Commercial Code was adopted by the 1953 General Session. After re-examination of our above position, we are still of the opinion that further paid assistance to the commission is unjustified. Furthermore, we feel that the services of the Legislative Counsel Bureau are available to the commission and that the Legislative Counsel has competent people in this field. In addition to the services of the Legislative Counsel, we believe the commission should use the services of interested legal groups which are available and who support this cause.

We recommend disapproval of the amount budgeted for part-time counsel services and the related expenses.

SUPREME COURT

ITEM 19 of the Budget Bill

Budget page 19
Budget line No. 7

For Support of the Supreme Court From the General Fund

Amount requested	\$487,595
Estimated to be expended in 1953-54 Fiscal Year.....	480,706
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Increase (1.4 percent)	\$6,889

Summary of Increase

	Total increase	INCREASE DUE TO		Budget page	Line No.
		Work load or salary adjustments	New services		
Salaries and wages.....	\$7,040	\$7,040	---	19	59
Operating expense	---	---	---	19	76
Equipment	-151	-151	---	20	7
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Total increase	\$6,889	\$6,889	---	20	9

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amount budgeted	\$487,595
Legislative Auditor's recommendation.....	487,595
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Reduction	None

ANALYSIS

The increase of \$6,889, or 1.4 percent over the amount requested for the 1953-54 Fiscal Year is due to normal salary adjustments. The work load is estimated to continue at the same level as in the past few years.

Approval of the amount budgeted is recommended.