



DEPARTMENT OF  
**FINANCE**  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**Gavin Newsom ■ Governor**

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April 24, 2025

Honorable Scott D. Wiener, Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
Committee

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Anna M. Caballero, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee

### **Trial Court Trust Fund Augmentation—Court Interpreter Program**

Pursuant to Provision 4 of Item 0250-101-0932, 2024 Budget Act, the following report is respectfully submitted.

The Department of Finance has received a request from the Judicial Council to augment Schedule 0150037 - Court Interpreters of Item 0250-101-0932, 2024 Budget Act, by \$16.2 million to address funding shortfalls in the Court Interpreter Program due to increasing costs. Cost increases are attributed to several factors, including the expansion of interpreter services to all case types, a greater number of mandated court interpreters, wage growth, increased use of contractors, and high contractor rates.

The intent is to access available reserves in the Court Interpreters Program on a one-time basis in 2024-25 for this purpose. The Program currently has available reserves that were accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic when courthouses were closed, and operations were limited. We agree with the Judicial Council that there are sufficient reserves in the Program to support this augmentation.

Finance concurs with the necessity of this change to the approved budget and will be approving this augmentation not sooner than 30 days from the above date.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please call Mark Jimenez, Principal Program Budget Analyst, at (916) 445-8913.

JOE STEPHENSHAW  
Director  
By:

ERIKA LI  
Chief Deputy Director

cc: On following page

cc: Honorable James Ramos, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 6  
Honorable Laura Richardson, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
Subcommittee No. 5  
Honorable Roger W. Niello, Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Honorable Heath Flora, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst (3)  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
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Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus, Office of Policy and  
Budget  
Paul Dress, Caucus Co-Chief of Staff, Assembly Republican Leader's Office  
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