

OFFICE OF THE
LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL
ANALYST

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations
Subcommittee

FROM: Alex Wilson, Analyst

DATE: September 19, 2017

SUBJECT: Juvenile Justice Options/Recommendations

During the 2017 General Session, the Legislature passed House Bill 239 – Juvenile Justice Amendments. The bill initiated a reform of the Utah Juvenile Justice System, in three phases, beginning on the following dates: June 2017, August 2017, and June 2018. Based on the bill’s fiscal note, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Office (LFA) expects, \$25,900 one-time and \$1,279,200 ongoing in additional funding during the 2018 General Session, to fully fund the reform. In addition to these costs, \$3,636,000 of reported costs by the judiciary for additional programming for juveniles on probation, remains contested.

The Division of Juvenile Justice Services has also requested additional funding for a new multi-purpose facility in Salt Lake County. These previous plans are underway, but have not been formalized as a strategic plan. The LFA recommends the following actions:

1. Instruct staff to monitor the Governor’s budget for the additional budget needs and, if not requested by the governor, present them as building blocks during the 2018 General Session.
2. Consider submitting a letter to the Infrastructure and General Governance Subcommittee stating the official position of this subcommittee concerning the new multi-purpose facility as it may affect the operational budget and juvenile justice outcomes.
3. Instruct the Division of Juvenile Justice Services to create a formalized strategic plan and report on it before the 2019 General Session.

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