

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001 Staff has prepared amendment **J.001** (attached) to make minor technical changes to the appropriation clause. In addition, pursuant to direction from the Chairmen of the Appropriations Committees, this amendment includes a provision to access the \$20.0 million General Fund that has been set aside in the Joint Budget Committee's FY 2014-15 budget package to fund 2014 legislation.

Points to Consider*General Fund Impact*

1. The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2014-15 based on the March 2014 Office of State Planning and Budgeting revenue forecast. The budget package allocates \$20.0 million General Fund to be available to fund 2014 legislation; if the full \$20.0 million is not used to fund legislation, it will be credited to the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund.
2. Please note that the Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note anticipates that the annual General Fund appropriation will increase to \$3.0 million beginning in FY 2015-16.

Technical Issues

3. The bill creates the new Underfunded Courthouse Facility Cash Fund, which would consist of General Fund appropriated by the General Assembly for the grant program and any gifts, grants, and donations that are received by the Department for the grant program. Is it necessary to appropriate General Fund into a new cash fund, rather than appropriating General Fund directly to the Department for the grant program? Is it likely that any gifts, grants, and donations will be received for this program?