

**Executive****PUBCD7 OPD and Outside Counsel in Revocation Hearings****R.C. 120.06, 120.08**

Allows OPD to contract with private legal counsel to provide legal representation for parole, probation, community control, or post-release control revocation matters if OPD does not have the capacity to provide it.

Requires the costs be paid directly from Indigent Defense Support Fund (Fund 5DY0).

**Fiscal effect: Potential increase in expenditures from Fund 5DY0 ALI 019619 Indigent Defense Support - State Office.**

**PUBCD1 State Legal Defense Services****Section: 371.20**

Earmarks up to \$50,000 in each fiscal year of GRF ALI 019401, State Legal Defense Services, to be used to provide legal training programs at no cost for private appointed counsel who represent at least one indigent person at no cost, and state and county public defenders and attorneys who contract with OPD to provide indigent defense services.

**PUBCD2 County reimbursement - Indigent Defense Support****Section: 371.20**

Requires that GRF ALI 019501, County Reimbursement, be used to reimburse counties for the costs of operating county public defender offices, joint county public defender offices and county appointed counsel systems, the counties' costs and expenses of conducting the defense in capital cases, the counties' costs and expenses of appointed counsel, and any other costs to provide legal representation to indigent persons.

Caps reimbursement of county costs at an hourly rate not to exceed \$75 per hour, except in capital cases which are reimbursed at an hourly rate not to exceed \$140 per hour.

**PUBCD4 County Indigent Defense Budgets****Section: 371.20**

Requires each county report biannual indigent defense cost projections for the next two upcoming state fiscal years to OPD, no later than July 31, 2026, and each biennium thereafter.

Requires the report to contain most current projected costs, and the next two fiscal years for their indigent defense fund.

**PUBCD5 Cash Transfer from the General Revenue Fund to the Legal Aid Fund****Section: 371.20**

Requires the OBM Director on July 1 of each fiscal year, to transfer \$1,000,000 cash from the GRF to the Legal Aid Fund (Fund 5740). Requires that this cash be distributed by the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation to Ohio's civil legal aid societies for the following:

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(1) \$500,000 in each fiscal year for the sole purpose of providing legal services for economically disadvantaged individuals and families seeking assistance with legal issues arising as a result of substance abuse disorders.

(2) \$250,000 in each fiscal year for the sole purpose of providing legal services for veterans.

Prohibits any of the money to be used for administrative costs.

**PUBCD6 Federal Representation****Section: 371.20**

Requires that Fund 3S80 ALI 019608, Federal Representation, be used to support representation provided by OPD in federal cases.

**PUBCD8 Northwest Regional Hub pilot program****Section: 371.30**

Creates the Northwest Regional Hub pilot program to allow Allen, Hardin, and Putnam counties to participate in an alternative management system for indigent defense that is primarily managed by OPD, with a portion of cases managed by court-appointed counsel.

Requires OPD to assume responsibility for representation of indigent persons to the extent that representation is not provided by outside counsel in accordance with R.C. 120.33 if a county elects to become part of the Northwest Regional Hub and transfer indigent defense services to OPD.

Requires OPD to provide direct representation to indigent defendants in not more than 80% of indigent defense cases.

Provides for withdrawal procedures for participating counties, including holding public meetings and providing notice to the local bar association, every judge serving in the county, county prosecutor, county public defender, and every attorney who is on the court's roster for appointment to provide indigent defense.

Provides that when a county transfers indigent defense services to OPD and the transferring county operates a county public defender office at the time of the transfer, the employees of the transferring county public defender may be transferred to employees of the OPD as OPD determines necessary for successful implementation of the pilot, to the extent possible, with no loss of service credit.

Authorizes the pilot to operate during the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

**PUBCD3 Northwest Regional Hub Support****Section: 371.30**

Requires that GRF ALI 019406, Northwest Regional Hub Support, be used by OPD to pay for costs of providing indigent defense services as part of the Northwest Regional Hub pilot program in Allen, Hardin, and Putnam counties.