

Draft Only  
Approval Pending  
**SUMMARY of  
PROCEEDINGS**



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**JOINT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

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**COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION**

July 30 & 31, 2012  
Capitol Building, Room 302  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

July 30, 2012  
Senator Drew Perkins, Co-Chairman  
Representative Kermit Brown, Co-Chairman  
Senator Bruce Burns  
Senator Leland Christensen  
Senator Floyd Esquibel  
Senator Larry Hicks  
Representative Joe Barbuto  
Representative Bob Brechtel  
Representative Richard Cannady  
Representative Matt Greene  
Representative Sam Krone  
Representative Bob Nicholas  
Representative Frank Peasley  
Representative Mary Throne

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

July 31, 2012  
Senator Drew Perkins

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF**

Lily Sharpe, Staff Attorney

**OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING**

Please refer to Appendix 1 to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet  
for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

*The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at [lso@wyoleg.gov](mailto:lso@wyoleg.gov). The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee met to consider proposed budget reductions, child support guidelines and possible legislation to implement a State sobriety program.

## CALL TO ORDER (JULY 30, 2012)

Co-Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to Appendix 2 to review the Committee Meeting Agenda.

## SUPREME COURT – SECTION 101

Chief Justice Marilyn Kite, Wyoming Supreme Court, and Joann Odendahl, Supreme Court Administrator, described the proposed budget reductions in Appendix 3. Chief Justice Kite requested the Committee accept the agency's recommendation to exclude judicial salaries from the reductions as the salaries are set by statute.

### *Statutory Changes:*

The Supreme Court also recommended phasing out the full-time magistrates. This will require changing the full-time magistrate statute (W.S. § 5-9-206) to reflect that a full-time magistrate "may" be appointed in a district where a circuit judge does not reside. This change would be permanent and would not shift costs to other entities.

The Committee discussed whether it should apply the 8% reduction to all agencies assigned to the Committee for review. Representative Brown moved to apply the full 8% to each agency. The motion failed. It was the consensus of the Committee that an 8% reduction for the judiciary was not feasible and that the judicial branch recommendation for a 4% reduction should be accepted. Additionally, an across-the-board salary reduction for staff was not a desirable option, particularly in light of the lack of funding for staff salary increases during the past two legislative sessions.

Representative Peasley moved to accept the Supreme Court's recommendations for FY2014 as set forth in the first paragraph of text on page 2 of the tables in Appendix 3. The motion passed to accept the Supreme Court's recommended 4% reduction of \$567,274. The proposed reduction would be attained by cutting printing, legal research books and travel from administration (\$46,826); book purchases from the law library budget (\$152,778); at least four full-time clerk positions from the circuit courts (\$186,714); close three satellite courts located in Powell, Lovell, and Dubois as of July 2013 (\$40,000); cutting magistrate fees and printing (\$127,480); and cutting travel from the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration (\$13,476). The Supreme Court also requested to defer cuts in positions until after the workload study results are received in September of 2012.

**Action taken:** Accepted in whole.

## DISTRICT COURTS – SECTIONS 120-141

Honorable Pete Arnold, President Elect of the District Judges Conference, explained the proposed 4% budget reductions in Appendix 4. As with the Supreme Court, the reductions do not include any decrease in the salaries of judges. The reductions would also leave the four full-time positions allotted to each judge. Reductions would be made in supportive services, central services and contractual services. To achieve the cuts, the district judges will need to consider cutting the amount budgeted for transcript fees.