

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for
JUSTICE SYSTEM APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: *February 23, 2026*

Location: *RM 19*

Convened: *3:00 PM*

Adjourned: *3:55 PM*

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Representatives Lohse-CH, Thompson, M.-VC, Ramirez-RM, Golding, Lawler, Madison, Vondran, Wessel-Kroeschell

Absent:

Excused: Representative Dieken

The meeting commenced at 3:01 PM and was called to order by Chairman Lohse. Roll call was taken; Chairman Lohse, Vice Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Ramirez, committee members Rep. Golding, Rep. Lawler, Rep. Madison, Rep. Vondran, and Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell were present. Representative Dieken was excused. Chairman Lohse made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with no objections. Chairman Lohse gave opening remarks and introduced Attorney General Brenna Bird. Attorney General Bird began her presentation by providing an update on the state's cold case unit, before illustrating a breakdown of the Attorney General's Office current funding levels. Attorney General Bird offered several examples of recent statewide prosecutions to demonstrate the kinds of cases the Attorney General's Office assists with. Attorney General Bird then explained the Office's budget requests for Fiscal Year 2027, including: \$803,063 for 4 full-time employees and a special victims unit; \$202,060 for IT and cybersecurity purposes; \$278,503 for the Taxpayer Relief Fund; \$444,763 for salary and benefits increases; \$1,000,000 for human trafficking victim support; and \$515,367 for 2 attorneys and 1 paralegal specifically hired to address the increase in professional licensing cases. Attorney General Bird concluded her presentation by reporting on recent activity in the Solicitor General's Office and the Consumer Protection Division, including tips for addressing scams and fraudulent crimes. Chairman Lohse, Vice Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Ramirez, committee members Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell, Rep. Madison, Rep. Golding, and Rep. Vondran asked questions and or/made comments regarding Attorney General Bird's presentation. With no further business to come before the committee, Representative Vondran motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 PM.

Representative Brian K. Lohse

Grace Lohse, Committee Secretary