

### 13.7 Special counsel.

1. Compensation shall not be allowed to any person for services as an attorney or counselor to an executive department of the state government, or the head of an executive department of state government, or to a state board or commission. However, the executive council may authorize employment of legal assistance, at a reasonable compensation, in a pending action or proceeding to protect the interests of the state, but only upon a sufficient showing, in writing, made by the attorney general, that the department of justice cannot for reasons stated by the attorney general perform the service. The reasons and action of the executive council shall be entered upon its records. If the attorney general determines that the department of justice cannot perform legal service in an action or proceeding, the executive council shall request the department involved in the action or proceeding to recommend legal counsel to represent the department. If the attorney general concurs with the department that the person recommended is qualified and suitable to represent the department, the person recommended shall be employed. If the attorney general does not concur in the recommendation, the department shall submit a new recommendation. [This subsection](#) does not affect the general counsel for the utilities board of the department of commerce, the legal counsel of the department of workforce development, or the general counsel for the property assessment appeal board.

2. The executive branch and the attorney general shall also comply with [chapter 23B](#) when retaining legal counsel on a contingency fee basis under [this section](#), as appropriate.

[S13, §208-b; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §152; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §13.7; [81 Acts, ch 22, §1](#)]

[83 Acts, ch 127, §1](#); [96 Acts, ch 1186, §23](#); [2005 Acts, ch 150, §120](#); [2011 Acts, ch 131, §20, 158](#); [2012 Acts, ch 1112, §1](#); [2016 Acts, ch 1073, §5](#)

Referred to in [§8F.2, §68B.32, §252B.7, §262.9](#)

For future repeal, effective July 1, 2021, of 2005 amendments to this section and subsequent amendments relating to the property assessment appeal board, see [2005 Acts, ch 150, §134](#); [2013 Acts, ch 123, §62, 64, 68](#); [2015 Acts, ch 109, §1](#)

Subsection 1 amended