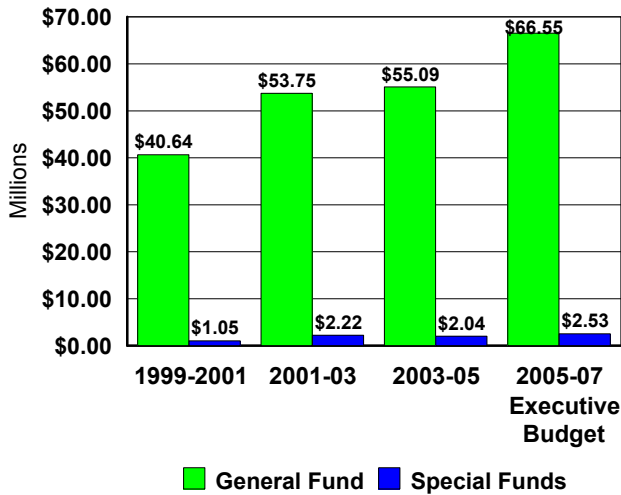


**Department 180 - Judicial Branch
 Senate Bill No. 2002**

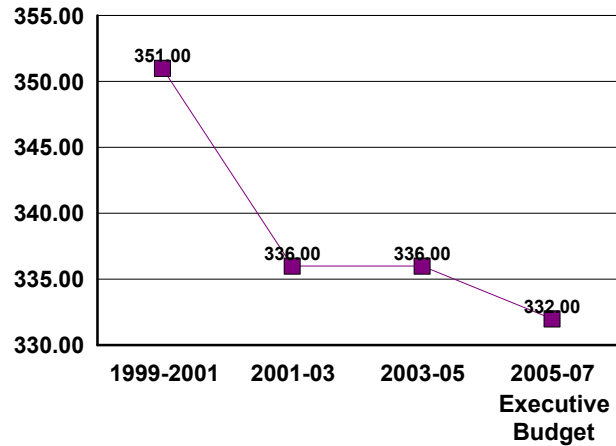
| | FTE Positions | General Fund | Other Funds | Total |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 2005-07 Executive Budget | 332.00 | \$66,546,349 | \$2,526,808 | \$69,073,157 |
| 2003-05 Legislative Appropriations | 336.00 | 55,087,369 | 2,043,536 | 57,130,905 ¹ |
| Increase (Decrease) | (4.00) | \$11,458,980 | \$483,272 | \$11,942,252 |

¹The 2003-05 appropriation amounts do not include \$752,500 of additional special funds authority resulting from the Supreme Court increasing the special funds appropriation during the 2003-05 biennium for continuing appropriations pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Sections 29-07-01.1 and 27-03-05.

Agency Funding



FTE Positions



Executive Budget Highlights

| | General Fund | Other Funds | Total |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Provides for the following Supreme Court changes: | | | |
| a. Provides funding for a 5.78 percent salary increase for Supreme Court justices for the first year of the biennium and a 4 percent increase for the second year | \$95,226 | | \$95,226 |
| b. Provides funding to continue a new pay plan implemented in October 2004 to increase employee salaries to market levels | \$68,212 | | \$68,212 |
| c. Provides funding to continue employee salary increases given during the 2003-05 biennium pursuant to the judicial branch salary schedule | \$146,288 | | \$146,288 |
| d. Increases funding for operating expenses, primarily relating to an anticipated 10 percent increase in professional supplies and materials cost (\$176,420) and to provide funding for records management (\$60,000) | \$259,379 | | \$259,379 |
| e. Provides funding for a new computer server | \$8,000 | | \$8,000 |
| f. Increases funding for former judges' retirement | \$10,186 | | \$10,186 |
| 2. Provides for the following district court changes: | | | |
| a. Provides funding for a 5.78 percent salary increase for the district court judges for the first year of the biennium and a 4 percent increase for the second year | \$731,021 | | \$731,021 |
| b. Provides funding for the continuation of a new pay plan implemented October 2004 to increase employee salaries to market levels | \$468,350 | | \$468,350 |

| | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| c. Removes 4 FTE positions pursuant to Senate Bill No. 2423 (2003)--the state employee salary increase bill. The salary savings was used to provide a 1 percent salary increase for remaining judicial branch employees as of January 1, 2004. | (\$394,000) | | (\$394,000) |
| d. Provides funding to continue employee salary increases given during the 2003-05 biennium pursuant to the judicial branch salary schedule | \$773,990 | (\$102,876) | \$671,114 |
| e. Increases funding for indigent defense | \$5,746,901 | \$205,000 | \$5,951,901 |
| f. Increases funding for operating expenses, primarily relating to an anticipated 10 percent increase in professional supplies and materials cost (\$75,026), increase for travel and professional development (\$183,688), increase for court improvements (\$105,873), increase for juvenile services (\$123,100), increase costs for contract clerks in the counties (\$103,789), an increase for information technology costs (\$321,133), and ConnectND costs (\$95,593) | \$1,494,565 | (\$419,764) | \$1,074,801 |
| g. Increases funding for equipment over \$5,000 (increases funding for copy machines from \$74,500 to \$107,500, provides funding for sound systems (\$50,000), and provides funding for workstations (\$18,500)) and provides funding for information technology equipment over \$5,000 for computer servers for digital audio recording (\$19,500) | \$121,000 | | \$121,000 |
| h. Decreases funding for former judges' retirement | (\$66,979) | | (\$66,979) |
| 3. Provides for the following Judicial Conduct Commission and Disciplinary Board changes: | | | |
| a. Provides funding for an increase in salaries (\$27,519) and an increase in operating expenses (\$10,431) | \$37,950 | | \$37,950 |

Other Sections in Bill

Section 6 of this bill provides the statutory changes increasing Supreme Court justices and district court judges salaries. Supreme Court justices annual salaries are increased from the current level of \$99,122 to \$104,851 effective July 1, 2005, and up to \$109,045 effective July 1, 2006. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is entitled to receive an additional \$3,066 per annum effective July 1, 2005, and up to \$3,189 per annum effective July 1, 2006, an increase from the current additional amount for the Chief Justice of \$2,899 per annum. District court judges annual salaries are increased from the current level of \$90,671 to \$95,911 effective July 1, 2005, and up to \$99,748 effective July 1, 2006. A presiding judge of a judicial district is entitled to receive an additional \$2,826 per annum effective July 1, 2005, and up to \$2,939 per annum effective July 1, 2006, an increase from the current additional amount for presiding judges of \$2,672.

Major Related Legislation

Senate Bill No. 2027 - This bill establishes a commission on legal counsel for indigents for the purpose of providing indigent defense services, provides a general fund appropriation of \$1,135,285 to the commission for its establishment, and provides for a transition of indigent defense services from the Supreme Court to the commission by December 31, 2005.

Senate Bill No. 2103 - This bill allows the Supreme Court to participate in the income tax refund debt setoff for purposes of court-ordered fines, fees, or costs due to the state.

Senate Bill No. 2105 - This bill repeals the section of law providing for a state juvenile services coordinator position.