

ITEM REDUCTIONS BY METHOD OF FINANCING
81st Regular Session, 2010-11 Agency Item Reductions
Automated Budget and Evaluation System of Texas (ABEST)

Date: 3/3/2010
Time: 8:34:24AM
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Agency code: 234

Agency name: Fourteenth Court of Appeals District, Houston

Item Priority and Name/ Method of Financing	2010	2011	Biennial Total	Target
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1 5% Reduction

Item Comment: As discussed in the joint letter to state leadership dated 2/16/10, the Courts of Appeals request to maintain the full level of funding appropriated to the courts for FY 2010-11 and utilize that funding as authorized by the 81st Legislature. A 5% reduction of \$355,203 would negatively impact the Court's ability to maintain similar funding for same-size appellate courts. To meet the requested budget reduction the following areas would be affected; (1)Funds from current unfilled attorney position,\$65,000; (2)Funds from unfilled attorney and clerical positions,FY2011, \$100,000; (3)Funds to make salary adjustments for attorneys, legal and non-legal staff that supports the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel to reflect levels of responsibility, \$115,203; and (4)Funds to continue reclassification of law clerks, based on judicial preference, to permanent staff attorneys, \$75,000. If the 5% reduction took place in FY 2010, the Court would have to reduce its workforce by one or more attorney positions and one or more non-legal staff positions.

Satisfaction of the Court's core function and its Constitutional mandate, the delivery of justice to Texas citizens through review of criminal and civil trial court proceedings, requires a highly skilled and trained professional workforce, both attorneys and non-legal support staff. 96% of the Court's FY 2010-11 budget is salary. Full funding supports the Court's continued ability to attract and retain the qualified attorney, clerical and administrative staff the Court must have to operate effectively and efficiently so that it can deliver justice and meet legislative performance requirements. Full funding will support staff pay levels that better compete with private and other governmental sectors. The costs associated with employee turnover and the negative effects on productivity can be minimized, while the Court continues to operate at historical performance levels, and maintains the highest quality of legal analysis

GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS

1 General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$355,203		
General Revenue Funds Total	\$0	\$355,203		
Item Total	\$0	\$355,203		
Agency General Revenue Total	\$0	\$355,203		
Agency GR Dedicated Total				
Agency Grand Total	\$0	\$355,203	\$355,203	\$355,203

* - Indicates amount does not meet target requirements.