

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2002 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** SB636

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron**        Stolle

**3. Committee**    Senate Finance

**4. Title**         Court-appointed counsel; compensation.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** Allow the court to award compensation in excess of statutory limits when the court finds that the time and effort expended by counsel in a circuit court case justifies the award. In making its determination the court is to consider the nature of the charges, the duration of the litigation, the complexity of the legal issues involved and the total number of hours in and out of court.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Not Available, See Item 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No

8. **Fiscal implications:** Although this bill will have impact, there is not sufficient data to predict the degree of the impact. However, it should be noted that the Criminal Fund is funded assuming no excess compensation over statutory limits. Exceeding statutory limits in awarding compensation could result in a budgetary shortfall in the Criminal Fund, requiring additional general funds support.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** The court system, Criminal Fund.

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No

11. **Other comments:** None

**Date:** 01/30/02/    TMB

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