

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Vratil at 9:40 a.m. on May 1, 2003, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Pugh

Committee staff present: Lisa Montgomery, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Others attending: see attached list

**Confirmation Hearing for Member of the State Board of Indigents' Defense Services**

Chairman Vratil opened the confirmation hearing for Denise E. Tomasic's reappointment by the Governor as a member of the State Board of Indigents' Defense Services. The Committee members were furnished with copies of information regarding the confirmation for their information and perusal. (Attachment 1) Chairman Vratil asked Ms. Tomasic to comment about her experience of serving on the Board of Indigents' Defense Services.

Committee members asked questions and made comments on various aspects of the position and funding concerns for the attorneys who are asked to represent indigents. Pat Scalia, Executive Director of the Board of Indigents' Defense Services, explained how the funding takes place, and also answered questions regarding budgeted funds for 2003 and 2004. Further discussion related to the rising costs of capital punishment cases and the appeals that are brought regarding the death penalty cases.

Chairman Vratil closed the confirmation hearing, and called for final action on the confirmation. Senator Gilstrap moved to recommend the confirmation for reappointment of Denise E. Tomasic as a member of the State Board of Indigents' Defense Services with her term to expire on January 15, 2006. The motion was seconded by Senator Haley, and the motion carried.

Chairman Vratil called the Committee's attention to the minutes of March 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, and 25 that were emailed to the Committee members for comments or possible corrections. Senator Donovan made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Senator Goodwin, and the motion carried.

Chairman Vratil adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.