

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

TO: House Appropriations Committee

FROM: William Griffin,  Chief Assistant Attorney General

RE: Budget Adjustment - Attorney General - Special Funds

DATE: January 14, 2015

This is to confirm my request that the Committee consider the budget adjustment for the Attorney General's Office as a recommendation to increase the Special Fund amount by \$40,000, and not as a recommendation to increase the General Fund amount by \$40,000. The funds are needed to support the Consumer Assistance Program administered by the Attorney General's Office on the UVM campus.

The Administration had initially presented this item as a recommendation to increase the General Fund amount. They did this in consultation with the Attorney General's Office based on AGO estimates of financial recoveries and litigation expenditures from the Special Fund. Given the pace of certain litigation and litigation expenses – a bit slower than expected – it now appears that recoveries will be sufficient to cover all Special Fund obligations and the \$40,000 in FY 2015.

Many cases that result in financial recoveries begin as consumer complaints to the Consumer Assistance Program. Therefore it would be appropriate to consider a Special Fund increase to support the Program's work.

The Administration has informed the AG's Office that they would not have any objection if the Committee considered this as a Special Fund and not as a General Fund recommendation.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you.