

system and develop and begin to implement a comprehensive criminal justice reform plan (hereinafter referred to as "plan") to minimize the delay, postponement, and dismissal problems in the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

(2) In developing the plan, the Chief Judge and the stakeholders, working cooperatively such that all major criminal justice agencies are fully represented and have a voice in strategic planning and decision-making, should at a minimum consider operating night courts, giving the State's Attorney final approval of charges, trying appeals to the Circuit Court on the District Court record, reducing vertical representation practices by the Public Defender and the State's Attorney, providing Public Defender representation at arraignment and bail hearings to defendants eligible for representation by the Office of the Public Defender at the Central Booking and Intake Facility, eliminating remote booking, asking Baltimore City to increase the budget of the State's Attorneys' Office, ensuring Baltimore City police officers attend all trials for which they are called, expediting violation of probation hearings, establishing work crews for probation and parole violators, establishing or enhancing warrant squads that target probation and parole violators, developing consensus charging guidelines in drug cases, and improving information technology and management practices. The Chief Judge, with the full cooperation from the stakeholders, should further consider including performance measures and a time frame for implementation and results. The plan should also identify the person responsible for each element of the plan.

(3) The Chief Judge, with the full cooperation from the stakeholders, should submit the plan by October 1, 1999, to the budget committees, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee for review and comment. The budget committees, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee shall have 45 days from the receipt of the plan for review and comment.

(4) The plan shall include provisions for monitoring implementation by the Chief Judge and for quarterly status reports beginning January 1, 2000, to the budget committees, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee. The plan shall include performance measures and a time frame for implementation and results. The plan shall also identify the person responsible for each element of the plan.

SECTION 36. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(1) To recognize savings resulting from reductions in the cost of desktop microcomputer equipment due to advances in the information technology industry, funds appropriated in this budget for microcomputers shall be reduced as provided in this section.