

Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

Overview of 2026 Charge

August 5, 2026

Hillary Chutter-Ames

Office of Legislative Counsel

Review and prepare report and recommendation regarding Department of Corrections revised search policy and gender-affirming care in correctional facilities

[H.550 / Act 117 of 2026](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
H.550 / Act 117 of 2026 An act relating to gender equity within Vermont's correctional facilities	Sec. 10	Department of Corrections	Aug. 1, 2026	(a) On or before August 1, 2026, the Department of Corrections shall submit a revised search policy to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee. (b) The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall review the policy and recommend whether updates to the policy are warranted and what, if any, statutory changes might be warranted.
	Sec. 12	Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee	Oct. 15, 2026	On or before October 15, 2026, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall review current practices related to gender-affirming care in correctional settings and submit a report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions. The report shall include recommended statutory language.

Note:

- The Department's revised search policy can be found [here](#).
- [Version 1.3](#) of H.550 contains bill language regarding medical care that may provide a starting place for the Committee's work.

Receive report of progress on the implementation of the rapid accountability dockets

[H.937 / Act 165 of 2026](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
H.937 / Act 165 of 2026 An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures	Sec. 38	DSAS, Defender General, AHS, Judiciary	August 2026 meeting	(a) The Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the Defender General, the Agency of Human Services, and the Judiciary shall appear at the August 2026 meeting of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee to report progress on the implementation of the rapid accountability dockets. <i>[See Secs. 31-37 of H.937 for requirements related to implementation of rapid accountability dockets]</i>

Receive report of progress on plan to develop the Green Mountain Youth Facility

[H.951 / Act 144 of 2026](#)

[H.952 / Act 163 of 2026](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
H.951 / Act 144 of 2026 An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government	Sec. E.300.1	Department for Children and Families, Department of Buildings and General Services	August, October, and December 2026 JLJOC meetings	At the August, October, and December 2026 meetings of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services shall report on their plan to develop the Green Mountain Youth Facility.
H.952 / Act 163 of 2026 An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment	Sec. 18 *same as H.951 Sec. E.300.1	Department for Children and Families, Department of Buildings and General Services	August, October, and December 2026 JLJOC meetings	(a) At the August, October, and December 2026 meetings of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Departments for Children and Families and of Buildings and General Services shall report on their plan to develop the Green Mountain Youth Facility.

Receive report on plan for providing network connectivity in State correctional facilities

[H.952 / Act 163 of 2026](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
H.952 / Act 163 of 2026 An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment	Sec. 19	Commissioner of Corrections and the State Chief Information Officer of Digital Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services	At each scheduled JLJOC meeting in 2026	The Commissioner of Corrections and the State Chief Information Officer of Digital Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee at each scheduled meeting of the Committee in calendar year 2026 on the plan for providing network connectivity in State correctional facilities authorized pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19(f)(21), including any prioritization and schedule.

Receive interim status updates on development of the feasibility plan for a permanent forensic facility and on emergency rulemaking for interim forensic and competency restoration program

[S.193 / Act 147 of 2026](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
S.193 / Act 147 of 2026 An act relating to establishing a forensic facility for certain criminal justice-involved persons	Sec. 7	Secretary of Human Services or designee	August and November 2026 JLJOC meetings	At the August and November 2026 meetings of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Secretary of Human Services or designee shall provide an interim status update on the development of the feasibility plan required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and on the emergency rulemaking required by Sec. 12 of this act.

Receive reports
on progress
toward
implementing
the requirement
that the Raise
the Age
initiative take
effect on July 1,
2027

[H.2 / Act 4 of 2025](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
H.2 / Act 4 of 2025 An act relating to increasing the minimum age for delinquency proceedings	Sec. 10	Agency of Human Services	July 1, 2026 Dec. 1, 2026	(a) On or before July 1, 2026 and December 1, 2026, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Institutions, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on its progress toward implementing the requirement of this act that the Raise the Age initiative take effect on July 1, 2027. [Act 4 of 2025 further specifies the content of the required reports]

Note: July 1, 2026 report submitted [here](#)

Provide analysis and input on draft reports evaluating options for providing no-cost telecommunications services to inmates in the custody of the Department of Corrections

[H.294 / Act 139 of 2026](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
H.294 / Act 139 of 2026 An act relating to telecommunications services and wages in correctional facilities	Sec. 2	Department of Corrections	Sept. 15, 2026 (first draft) Nov. 15, 2026 (updated draft)	(a) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department of Corrections shall provide to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions a written report evaluating options for providing no-cost telecommunications services to inmates in the Department's custody (b) The Department of Corrections shall provide to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee for the Committee's analysis and input (1) a first draft of the report on or before September 15, 2026; and (2) an updated draft of the report on or before November 15, 2026. [Act 139 of 2026 further describes the required content of the reports]

Contingent on use of funds, receive reports regarding use of correctional facility funding

[H.952 / Act 163 of 2026](#)

Bill/Act	Sec.	Report From	Deadline	Subject (Copied from Act)
H.952 / Act 163 of 2026 An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment	Sec. 17	BGS, DOC	Contingent on use of funds	Among the uses of the funds appropriated in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Secs. 3(b)(7) and 19(f)(11), as amended by this act, the Department of Buildings and General Services shall prioritize repairs of bathrooms, showers, and flooring at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility. If the Department of Buildings and General Services applies funds to other correctional facilities to respond to overcrowding at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the Commissioner of Corrections shall provide an overview of the use of funds to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee at the Committee's regularly scheduled meetings in calendar year 2026.

Questions?