

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 1

An act relating to consideration of financial cost of criminal sentencing options.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONSENSUS COST-BENEFIT WORKING GROUP

(a)(1) A Criminal Justice Consensus Cost-Benefit Working Group is established to develop collaboratively a criminal and juvenile justice cost-benefit model for Vermont for the purpose of providing policymakers with the information necessary to weigh the pros and cons of various strategies and programs, and enable them to identify options that are not only cost-effective, but also have the greatest net social benefit. The model will be used to estimate the costs related to the arrest, prosecution, defense, adjudication, and correction of criminal and juvenile defendants, and victimization of citizens by defendants.

(2) The Working Group shall:

(A) develop estimates of costs associated with the arrest, prosecution, defense, adjudication, and correction of criminal and juvenile defendants in Vermont by using the cost-benefit methodology developed by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy and currently used collaboratively by the Joint Fiscal Office and the PEW Charitable Trust for the Vermont Results First Project;

(B) estimate costs incurred by citizens who are the victims of crime by using data from the Vermont Center of Crime Victim Services, supplemented where necessary with national survey data;

(C) assess the quality of justice data collection systems and make recommendations for improved data integration, data capture, and data quality as appropriate;

(D) develop a throughput model of the Vermont criminal and juvenile justice systems which will serve as the basic matrix for calculating the cost and benefit of Vermont justice system programs and policies;

(E) investigate the need for and most appropriate entity within state government to be responsible for:

(i) revising the statewide cost benefit model in light of legislative or policy changes, or both, in the criminal or juvenile justice systems;

(ii) updating cost estimates; and

(iii) updating throughput data for the model.

(3) The Working Group shall be convened and staffed by the Vermont Center for Justice Research.

(4) The costs associated with staffing the Working Group shall be underwritten through December 31, 2013 by funding previously obtained by the Vermont Center for Justice Research from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.

(b) The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Administrative Judge or designee;

(2) the Chief Legislative Fiscal Officer or designee;

(3) the Attorney General or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee;

(5) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

(6) the Executive Director of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or designee;

(7) the Defender General or designee;

(8) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(9) the Director of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services or designee;

(10) the President of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont or designee;

(11) the President of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association or designee; and

(12) the Director of the Vermont Center for Justice Research.

(c) On or before November 15, 2013, the Working Group shall report its preliminary findings to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the House Committee on Judiciary, and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions. The Working Group shall issue a final report to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2014.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.