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TO:	Senate Committee on Government Operations
	Senate Committee on Judiciary
	House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs
	House Committee on Judiciary
FROM:	Xusana Davis, Executive Director of Racial Equity
DATE:	January 15, 2024
RE:	Status and Summary of Division of Racial Justice Statistics

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This memorandum is submitted on behalf of the Division of Racial Justice Statistics (DRJS) pursuant to Act 142 of 2022.

The Office of Racial Equity continues the recruitment process to hire the remaining staff members who will comprise the Division, which includes one grant-funded position that will participate as a DRJS-embedded data analyst as part of a multi-agency effort known as the Preschool Development Grant.

The Office has worked with the Agency of Digital Services (ADS) to identify the technological needs of the Division. The Office has also consulted with ADS, the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and external research partners to identify the legal and logistical needs for implementing memoranda of understanding with the high number of agencies statewide that will need to provide data to the DRJS. The Division has also provided light research assistance to the Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems Advisory Panel (RDAP).

The Division has conducted research on topics including
- access to carceral records,
- equity in the composition and administration of the state's Social Equity Business Development Fund for licensed cannabis establishments,
- pay parity in state government, and
- various legislative proposals in the 2023-2024 legislative session.

The Division expects to generate a report on the topic of access to carceral records by early March 2024.

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