

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred Senate Bill No. 97  
3 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose  
5 to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 20, Racial  
6 Disparities in Criminal and Juvenile Justice System Advisory Panel; report on  
7 Bureau of Racial Justice Statistics, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a  
8 new Sec. 20 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 20. RACIAL DISPARITIES IN CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE  
10 SYSTEM ADVISORY PANEL; REPORT ON BUREAU OF  
11 RACIAL JUSTICE STATISTICS

12 (a) On or before November 15, 2021, the Racial Disparities in the Criminal  
13 and Juvenile Justice System Advisory Panel shall report to the House and  
14 Senate Committees on Judiciary on the creation of the Bureau of Racial Justice  
15 Statistics to collect and analyze data related to systemic racial bias and  
16 disparities within the criminal and juvenile justice systems. The report shall  
17 address:

18 (1) where the Bureau should be situated, taking into account the  
19 necessity for independence and the advantages and disadvantages of being a  
20 stand-alone body or being housed in State government;

21 (2) how and to what extent the Bureau should be staffed;

1           (3) what should be the scope of the Bureau’s mission;

2           (4) how the Bureau should conduct data collection and analysis; and

3           (5) the best methods for the Bureau to enforce its data collection and  
4 analysis responsibilities.

5           (b) For purposes of developing the report required by subsection (a) of this  
6 section, the Panel shall create a subcommittee working group that shall:

7           (1) consult with:

8                   (A) the Vermont Crime Research Group;

9                   (B) the National Center on Restorative Justice;

10                  (C) the University of Vermont; and

11                  (D) any other entity that would be of assistance to the Bureau; and

12           (2) consult with and have the assistance of:

13                   (A) the Vermont Chief Performance Officer; and

14                   (B) the Vermont Chief Data Officer.

15           (c) The report required by subsection (a) of this section shall include  
16 proposed draft legislation.

17           (d) Members of the Panel who are neither State employees nor otherwise  
18 paid to participate in the working group in their professional capacity shall be  
19 entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for  
20 attending meetings as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

1       (e) In fiscal year 2022, \$50,000.00 is appropriated to the Office of the  
2       Attorney General from the General Fund to complete the work described in  
3       this section, portions of which may be used to establish performance-based  
4       contracts with:

5               (1) other entities and individuals to research and provide:

6                       (A) other models of data collection entities and determine how they  
7                       are typically organized, structured, and located;

8                       (B) methodologies for how data can be gathered from disparate  
9                       locations and organizations;

10                      (C) best practices for collection and organization of data to permit  
11                      ease of accessibility and development of policy recommendations;

12                      (D) how to use the data to create a public-facing dashboard that is  
13                      user-friendly and permits public transparency;

14                      (E) technical assistance and customized consulting to support new  
15                      data-sharing collaborations and partnerships on a range of topics, including:

16                               (i) legal frameworks for data sharing;

17                               (ii) data governance;

18                               (iii) procedures for data access;

19                               (iv) data management and analytics;

20                               (v) staffing data infrastructure; and

21                               (vi) community engagement and agenda setting; and

1           (2) the University of Vermont Legislative Internship Program for the  
2           purposes of providing support to the Panel for the report required by this  
3           section. Interns for the Panel shall be drawn from diverse backgrounds to  
4           represent the interests of communities of color throughout the State.

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11           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE