



State of Vermont
Vermont Crime Information Center
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Department of Public Safety

To: Representative LaLonde
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Vermont House of Representatives

From: Jeffrey Wallin
Director

Date: February 20, 2026

RE: H.382 Data Collection

The Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC) serves as the official State repository for criminal history records, including arrest, arraignment, disposition, fingerprint, and incident data. As a repository, VCIC relies on criminal justice agencies statewide to provide data in nationally recognized uniform formats, including fingerprint supported arrest data. This is further complimented by disposition data provided by the Vermont Judiciary and underpins virtually all data collected and housed by VCIC. These data collection activities also require significant human effort by all parties involved to gather, review, and submit.

Once received and processed, criminal history data (commonly known as Rap Sheet data) is then disseminated to authorized entities for authorized purposes. This may include criminal justice agencies for criminal justice purposes (per 20 V.S.A. § 2056a), bonafide research agencies conducting research (per 20 V.S.A. § 2056b), or criminal conviction records to the public (per 20 V.S.A. § 2056c). Statistical criminal incident data is made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting¹ program along with the Crime Research Group² (which serves as the designated Statistical Analysis Center for Vermont).

As introduced, H.382 (The Vermont Justice Transparency Act) would expand the nature and categories of data housed by VCIC, including use-of-force incidents, legal basis information, results of searches, and arrestee state of residence. In some instances,

¹ <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr>

² <https://crgvt.org/>



existing data collections (such as the National Use of Force³ data collection maintained by the FBI) may satisfy the requirement leading to minimal additional technical or staffing requirements.

For other proposed datasets (such as legal basis information and results of searches) an entirely new state-specific data collection infrastructure would be required. This would require the development of new technology, increased staffing, and development of underlying policy to guide submissions by law enforcement agencies to VCIC. There may also be instances where required data is not reasonably available such as arrestee state of residency (as information of this nature cannot be validated).

Additionally, it can be expected the collection of any new datasets would also place a meaningful burden on individual law enforcement agencies statewide. Along with potential expansion of existing Record Management Systems (RMS), which initially collect this data, significant policy development or legal interpretation may also be required to properly categorize incidents and update general law enforcement procedures.

VCIC fully supports further leveraging existing data collections (including the Crime Data Explorer⁴) to provide transparency and community awareness but remains concerned the creation of any novel dataset may be duplicative, unreliable, or make existing data collection efforts more challenging.

³ <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/use-of-force>

⁴ <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/>