

1 H.937

2 Representative Maguire of Rutland City moves that the bill be amended by
3 adding 10 new sections to be Secs. 31–40 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 31. FINDINGS

5 The General Assembly finds:

6 (1) The pilot accountability court in Chittenden County, which was
7 referred to as the Pilot Accountability Court, was a project proposed by the
8 Governor and implemented by the Judiciary in collaboration with the
9 Chittenden County State’s Attorney, the Department of State’s Attorneys and
10 Sheriffs, the Chittenden County Public Defender’s Office, the Agency of
11 Human Services, the Chittenden County Sheriff’s Office, and the Department
12 of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management.

13 (2) The docket helped clear a backlog of repeat offender criminal cases
14 involving individuals with five or more open charges, many of whom were
15 unhoused and struggling with substance use issues or mental health challenges.
16 The docket brought together judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and human
17 services staff to resolve cases faster and connect individuals to the services
18 they needed.

19 (3) The docket achieved a clearance rate of approximately 300 percent
20 or roughly three times the Judiciary’s typical clearance rate.

1 (4) More importantly, repeat offenders were held accountable to the
2 court for complying with conditions of release, complying with orders to
3 connect with service providers, and appearing for scheduled court proceedings.

4 (5) Each county that determines that employing a proportional model of
5 a rapid accountability docket that takes into account the unique needs and
6 resources of the county should have the opportunity to operate such a docket.

7 Sec. 32. RAPID ACCOUNTABILITY DOCKET; PURPOSE

8 The goals of a rapid accountability docket include:

9 (1) Accelerating court proceedings of repeat-offender cases by ensuring:

10 (A) consistent and timely availability of judicial resources, including
11 judge and courtroom time;

12 (B) dedicated prosecutorial and defense resources;

13 (C) the availability of resources of the Department of Corrections and
14 the Agency of Human Services; and

15 (D) sufficient transport services to detained individuals, as needed, to
16 ensure that defendants attend scheduled court hearings.

17 (2) Connecting individuals with treatment, housing, and social services
18 to reduce the circumstances that may contribute to recidivism.

19 (3) Reducing the number of pending criminal cases that involve
20 individuals with multiple dockets by providing targeted resources for a limited

1 period of time to improve the overall efficiency of the courts and utilize the
2 known deterrent effects of consequences close in time to the alleged offense.

3 (4) Improving accountability for individuals with multiple pending legal
4 cases by providing immediate follow-up and a court schedule that is more
5 responsive to their needs.

6 (5) Improving collaboration among law enforcement, prosecutors, and
7 social workers to provide faster resolution of repeat offender cases.

8 Sec. 33. COUNTY DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY

9 The Executive Director of the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs,
10 in consultation with the Chief Superior Court Judge, the Defender General, and
11 the Secretary of Human Services or designee, shall identify the order in which
12 the counties shall employ a rapid accountability docket. At least 30 days
13 before a rapid accountability docket starts in a county, the State’s Attorney in
14 each respective county shall convene stakeholders in the county to assess needs
15 and resources within the county to develop a plan to implement an
16 accountability docket in accordance with the goals identified in Sec. 32 of this
17 act.

18 Sec. 34. DEDICATED COURT SPACE AND JUDICIARY STAFF

19 (a) The Chief Superior Court Judge shall assign a sitting or retired judge to
20 each rapid accountability docket and shall provide a dedicated courtroom and
21 administrative staff to implement the plan for the respective county.

1 (b) Each operating period shall last up to 90 days, but may be shorter if the
2 goals of the rapid accountability docket are met, as determined by the State’s
3 Attorney in consultation with the judge and the public defender. Each docket
4 shall give priority to defendants with five or more pending cases, but the
5 State’s Attorney or public defender may request to include defendants with
6 fewer than five pending cases where faster action would serve the interests of
7 justice.

8 Sec. 35. DEDICATED PROSECUTOR AND LEAD PUBLIC DEFENDER

9 (a) The Governor, in consultation with the respective county State’s
10 Attorney and the Executive Director of the Department of State’s Attorneys
11 and Sheriffs, may appoint a special prosecutor to serve a rapid accountability
12 docket, or the State’s Attorney of the respective county may appoint a
13 designated deputy State’s Attorney to serve a rapid accountability docket.

14 (b) To the extent resources allow, the Executive Director of the Department
15 of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs and the State’s Attorney shall ensure victim
16 advocates and administrative staff are available to support victims and the
17 efficient operation of the prosecutor.

18 (c) The Defender General shall identify a lead public defender for each
19 county accountability docket and coverage sufficient for the docket.

1 Sec. 36. EXECUTIVE BRANCH RESOURCES

2 (a) The Governor shall ensure adequate resources from the Department of
3 Public Safety (DPS), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Department of
4 Corrections (DOC), Department of Mental Health, the Agency of Human
5 Services, and the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs (DSAS) are
6 made available to the rapid accountability dockets, recognizing that each
7 county will have different needs.

8 (1) DOC shall assign a liaison to each operating docket.

9 (2) DSAS, local law enforcement, DMV, DPS, and DOC shall, in
10 collaboration with each county sheriff’s office, ensure timely transport of
11 incarcerated defendants to hearings.

12 (3) The Secretary of Human Services shall assign staff to each docket to
13 address complex needs, including defendants dealing with:

14 (A) substance use or mental health challenges;

15 (B) homelessness or unstable housing; and

16 (C) trauma or child welfare history.

17 (b) The Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of Human Services,
18 the Executive Director of the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs,
19 and the Chief Prevention Officer, shall designate a rapid accountability docket
20 coordinator to track data and assist with the deployment of resources. The
21 docket coordinator shall identify best practices and monitor data during and

1 beyond the initial implementation period to ensure that information is
2 maintained and distributed to evaluate the programmatic efficiency and
3 dispositional outcomes.

4 Sec. 37. DATA COLLECTION

5 For each rapid accountability docket, the docket coordinator shall track and
6 report:

7 (1) the number of defendants served;

8 (2) the number of cases resolved and types of outcomes;

9 (3) the number of defendants connected to services and types of
10 services;

11 (4) the number of times each defendant appeared in court for the docket;

12 (5) the number of probation or furlough violations of the defendants
13 sentenced through the docket within six and 12 months; and

14 (6) the number of defendants charged with a new offense within six and
15 12 months and the types of offenses.

16 Sec. 38. REPORTING

17 (a) The Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the Defender
18 General, the Agency of Human Services, and the Judiciary shall appear at the
19 August 2026 meeting of the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee to
20 report progress on the implementation of the rapid accountability dockets.

1 (b) On or before December 1, 2026, the docket coordinator shall submit a
2 written report regarding the implementation of the rapid accountability dockets
3 to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and the Governor.

4 Sec. 39. CONTINGENCY FUNDING

5 The duty to implement Secs. 32–37 of this act is contingent upon the
6 availability of funds appropriated in fiscal year 2027.

7 Sec. 40. REPEAL

8 Secs. 31–39 of this act shall be repealed on July 1, 2028.

9 and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.