

# Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

Committee Work for 2025 Interim

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# Justice Oversight Committee Charge Established by 2015 Act No. 58, § E.335.1

## 2 V.S.A. chapter 23

- Committee Powers and Duties
  - Oversee the Vermont Department of Corrections, including:
    - Evaluating DOC strategic, operating, and capital plans;
    - Overseeing DOC policy development; and
    - Encouraging communication between DOC, the administrative branch, and the criminal justice system
  - Assist with Vermont's juvenile and criminal justice systems, including:
    - Evaluating the statewide system of pretrial services, court diversion programs, community justice center services, and other relevant programs and services to identify any variations throughout the State
    - Assessing the consistency and cost efficiency of the systems;
    - Ensuring that statutes reflect restorative justice principles; and
    - Reviewing timeliness of judicial proceedings

# Reports due to Committee during 2025 Interim

- **Reports/Updates Due to Committee during 2025 Interim**
  - Act 40 of 2023 (S.14) – Annual Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council report (Council recently repealed – no report due)
  - Act 64 of 2024 (S.109) – Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group report
  - Act 64 of 2025 (S.109) – Victim Notification System Task Force report
  - Act 180 of 2024 (H.645) – Post-Adjudication Reparative Working Group update and report

Act 64 (S.109)  
Firearm  
Surrender  
Order  
Compliance  
Working Group

Sec. 24. FIREARM SURRENDER ORDER COMPLIANCE  
WORKING GROUP; REPORT

- The Office of the Attorney General shall convene a Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group to develop a uniform process to ensure compliance with court orders to surrender firearms.
- The Working Group shall examine the statutory or policy changes necessary to create a uniform process to monitor compliance, support entities charged with storing and returning surrendered firearms pursuant to court orders, and identify a stable and reliable funding source for any additional resources needed to monitor compliance.

# Act 64 (S.109) Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group

## Report

- By November 15, 2025, the Working Group shall report its recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee.
- The report shall include:
  - a workable statewide compliance model that is adaptable to both the Family and Criminal Divisions of the Superior Courts and that ensures:
    - accountability of respondents and defendants while addressing safety needs of the plaintiffs and victims; and
    - proper storage and return of firearms surrendered pursuant to court orders; and
  - recommendations for any legislative changes necessary to support the model.

# Act 64 (S.109)

## Victim Notification System Task Force

### Sec. 28. VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TASK FORCE; REPORT

- The Victim Notification System Task Force is created to review and improve the responsiveness of Vermont's victim notification system, specifically:
  - improving victims' accessibility to information;
  - ensuring that the entire notification process is trauma-informed, including all notifications, communications, and informational materials;
  - expanding the use of automated notification systems in order to increase options and maximize communication choices for victims and survivors; and
  - recommendations for necessary training and resources.
- By November 15, 2025, the Working Group shall submit a report in the form of proposed legislation to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary, and the Senate Committees on Institutions and on Judiciary.



# Act 180 (H.645)

## Post- Adjudication Reparative Working Group

### Sec. 4. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE; POST-ADJUDICATION REPARATIVE PROGRAM WORKING GROUP; REPORT

- The Post-Adjudication Reparative Program Working Group is aimed to create a Post-Adjudication Reparative Program to promote uniform access to the appropriate community-based service providers for individuals sentenced to reparative boards and probation pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7030(a)(2) and (a)(3).
- The Working Group shall also study establishing a stable and reliable funding structure to support the operation of the appropriate community-based service providers.

# Act 180 (H.645)

## Post- Adjudication Reparative Working Group

### Report and updates

- By January 15, 2025, the Working Group shall provide an update to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary concerning any progress.
- By July 15, 2025, the Working Group shall provide an update to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee concerning any progress.
- By November 15, 2025, the Working Group shall submit a written report in the form of proposed legislation to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Senate Committee on Judiciary, and the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Judiciary.



# Committee Considerations for 2025 Interim and Beyond

## Non-statutory priorities to review?

- Pre-charge diversion program
- Treatment of non-justice-involved minors
- Juvenile facility update
  - Current treatment and status of justice-involved minors
- Women's correctional facility update
- Mandatory Reporter statute review
- Justice Reinvestment
- Court backlog

# Committee Schedule for 2025 Interim

## **July 15:**

- Post-Adjudication Reparative Working Group update due to Committee

## **November 15:**

- Firearm Surrender Order Compliance Working Group report due to Committee
- Victim Notification System Task Force report due to Committee