



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE JUSTICE
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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January 8, 2025

Hon. Jill Krowinski
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vermont House of Representatives

Hon. Philip Baruth
President Pro Tempore
Vermont Senate

Vermont General Assembly
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Krowinski and President Pro Tem Baruth:

During the 2024 legislative interim, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee ("Committee") identified several issues that need further attention during the upcoming legislative session. With that in mind, the Committee respectfully requests that you consult with the appropriate standing committees of jurisdiction to encourage examination of the following topics:

1. The implementation of Raise the Age, including issues with staffing and recruitment, information technology capabilities, and facility design and construction;
2. Reassess the viability and composition of the Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council to provide any criminal justice reform policy proposals;
3. Appropriately resource restorative justice programs, including pre-charge diversion;
4. Assessing the Department of Corrections' plan to implement the Pre-Trial Supervision Program statewide;
5. Updates on the implementation of the 1115 Medicaid waiver from the Department of Vermont Health Access;
6. The Department of Corrections' progress on re-entry and transition planning initiatives, including substance abuse treatment and transitional housing, to help curb mortality rates for individuals re-entering society;

7. The Agency of Human Services recommendations concerning the administration and operation of correctional healthcare with the intent to transition away from the Department of Corrections contracting with a third-party healthcare provider;
8. Any appropriations or distribution of State funds needed to ensure broadband access at Department of Corrections' facilities;
9. Updates on the efforts between the Commissioner of Corrections' office and facility superintendents to coordinate, monitor, and quickly address staffing and facility conditions; and
10. The Vermont State Employees Association and the Department of Corrections collaborate with the committees overseeing government operations to address staffing and recruiting issues.

Thank you for considering the above-listed topics for review during the upcoming legislative session. Please let the Committee know if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alice M. Emmons

Representative Alice M. Emmons, Chair
Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee