

1 H.937

2 Representatives Maguire of Rutland City and LaLonde of South Burlington  
3 move that the bill be amended by adding 10 new sections to be Secs. 31–40 to  
4 read as follows:

5 Sec. 31. FINDINGS

6 The General Assembly finds:

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

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

20 (3) The docket achieved a clearance rate of approximately 300 percent  
21 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 rapid accountability  
5           docket modeled on the pilot in Chittenden County that takes into account the  
6           unique needs and resources of the county should have the opportunity to  
7           operate such a docket.

8           Sec. 32. RAPID ACCOUNTABILITY DOCKET; PURPOSE

9           The goals of a rapid accountability docket include:

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

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

13           (B) dedicated prosecutorial and defense resources;

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

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

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

20           (3) Reducing the number of pending criminal cases that involve  
21           individuals with multiple dockets by providing targeted resources to improve

1 the overall efficiency of the criminal justice system and utilize the known  
2 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 responsive  
5 to their needs.

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

9 Sec. 33. COUNTY DEPLOYMENT STRATEGY

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

19 Sec. 34. DEDICATED COURT SPACE AND JUDICIARY STAFF

20 (a) The Chief Superior Court Judge shall assign a sitting or retired judge to  
21 each rapid accountability docket, and the Court Administrator shall provide a

1 dedicated courtroom, court staff, and court security to implement the plan for  
2 the respective county.

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

10 Sec. 35. DEDICATED PROSECUTOR AND LEAD PUBLIC DEFENDER

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

16 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of State’s Attorneys and  
17 Sheriffs and the State’s Attorney shall dedicate victim advocates and  
18 administrative staff sufficient to implement the plan for the respective county.

19 (c) The Defender General shall identify a lead public defender for each  
20 county rapid accountability docket and coverage sufficient to implement the  
21 plan for the respective county.

1           Sec. 36. EXECUTIVE BRANCH RESOURCES

2           (a) The Governor shall dedicate resources from the Department of Public  
3           Safety (DPS), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Department of  
4           Corrections (DOC), Department of Mental Health, and Agency of Human  
5           Services sufficient to implement the plan for the respective county.

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

7                   (2) The Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs and the State’s  
8           Attorney, local law enforcement, DMV, DPS, and DOC shall, in collaboration  
9           with each county sheriff’s office, ensure timely transport of incarcerated  
10           defendants to hearings.

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

13                           (A) substance use or mental health challenges;

14                           (B) homelessness or unstable housing; and

15                           (C) trauma or child welfare history.

16           (b) The Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of Human Services,  
17           the Executive Director of the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs,  
18           and the Chief Prevention Officer, may designate a rapid accountability docket  
19           coordinator to assist with the deployment of resources.

20           (c) The Administration shall coordinate Executive Branch resources to  
21           track and report data as required by Sec. 37 of this act. The Secretary of

1 Administration shall ensure that information is maintained and distributed to  
2 evaluate the programmatic efficiency and dispositional outcomes.

3 Sec. 37. DATA COLLECTION

4 For each rapid accountability docket, the Secretary of Administration shall  
5 track and report:

6 (1) the number of defendants served;

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

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

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

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

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

15 Sec. 38. REPORTING

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

20 (b) On or before December 1, 2026, the Secretary of Administration shall  
21 submit a written report regarding the implementation of the rapid

1 accountability dockets to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and  
2 the Governor.

3 Sec. 39. CONTINGENCY FUNDING

4 The duty to implement Secs. 32–37 of this act is contingent upon the  
5 availability of funds appropriated in fiscal year 2027 and 2025 Acts and  
6 Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1100(a)(3) as amended by 2026 Acts and Resolves  
7 No. 74, Sec. 51.

8 Sec. 40. REPEAL

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

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