
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 889

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION AND THE PUBLICATION OF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS BY THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes and updates to reporting requirements of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD) within the Office of Policy Management (OPM).

Principally, the bill:

1. eliminates the requirement for CJPPD to develop a plan to promote a more effective and cohesive state criminal justice system and biennially update the Governor and the Appropriations and Judiciary committees on the plan (§ 1);
2. requires CJPPD to annually track, in its trends and outcomes reporting system, the recidivism of offenders who received earned risk reduction credits (§ 3);
3. eliminates a requirement for the CJPPD reporting system to define outcomes for major programs and annually report them (§ 3);
4. requires CJPPD to conduct a data analysis of state criminal justice system trends and annually report the data and analysis to the Governor and the Judiciary Committee (§ 4);
5. repeals the CJPPD annual report and presentation requirement on promoting an effective and cohesive criminal justice system (§ 4);
6. narrows the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission's

(CJPAC's) duties by eliminating certain reporting and presentation requirements and the commission's full-day review of the state's criminal justice system required under current law (§ 5); and

7. requires OPM to make any CJPPD report or presentation available on the office's website, including certain specific reports (§§ 1-4, 6 & 7).

It also makes technical changes and repeals the OPM urban violence reduction grant program and certain CJPPD reporting requirements (§§ 8 & 9).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

§ 3 — TRENDS AND OUTCOMES REPORTING SYSTEM

Annual Connecticut Recidivism Study

Existing law requires CJPPD to develop a reporting system that tracks trends and outcomes related to policies designed to reduce prison overcrowding, improve rehabilitation efforts, and enhance reentry strategies for offenders released from prison.

Current law requires this reporting system to annually track the recidivism of offenders (1) released from prison; (2) on probation; and (3) participating in programs designed to reduce prison overcrowding, improve rehabilitation efforts and enhance reentry strategies for offenders released from prison. The bill requires the system to also annually track the recidivism of offenders who received earned risk reduction credits.

Major Program Outcomes

The bill also eliminates a requirement for the reporting system to define and annually report outcomes for major programs and delineate strategies to measure outcomes when information needed to measure a program's effectiveness is not yet available.

§ 4 — TRENDS IN CONNECTICUT'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REPORT

The bill requires CJPPD, by October 15 each year, to submit a report to the Governor and the Judiciary Committee analyzing data on state criminal justice system trends, including, if available, the number of reported crimes and arrests and the size of the populations on probation, parole, special parole, and in prison.

It repeals a requirement under current law for CJPPD to annually submit a report and make a presentation to the Governor and the Judiciary and Appropriations committees on the actions needed to promote an effective and cohesive criminal justice system.

§ 5 — CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY ADVISORY COMMISSION (CJPAC)

The bill narrows CJPAC's duties by eliminating requirements for the commission to (1) develop a guide on best practices for providing reentry services and (2) develop and annually update a plan to ensure the availability of reentry services, including establishing community reentry centers.

The bill eliminates a requirement that CJPAC report annually to the governor and the legislature on outcomes achieved under the state's reentry strategy and the coordination of information technology systems used by criminal justice agencies.

It also eliminates a requirement that CJPAC sponsor a full-day review of the criminal justice system in the state for all members of the criminal justice community, facilitated by the CJPPD undersecretary.

§§ 1-4, 6 & 7 — REPORTS AVAILABLE ON OPM'S WEBSITE

The bill requires OPM to make any CJPPD report or presentation available on the office's website, including the division's:

1. annual report on the correctional system population projections for planning purposes (§ 2),
2. monthly report on the reporting system's tracking and annual outcome report (§ 3),
3. new annual report containing data analysis of state criminal

justice system trends (§ 4),

4. annual report on the chief public defender's pilot program to provide representation at parole revocation hearings (§ 6), and
5. annual report on the prevalence and disposition of traffic stops and reported complaints (§ 7).

§ 9 — REPEALER

The bill repeals a requirement for OPM, within available appropriations, to administer an urban violence reduction grant program. It also repeals requirements for CJPPD to:

1. notify municipalities monthly of outstanding arrest and rearrest warrants for probation violations;
2. track, analyze, and annually report to the Judiciary Committee on recidivism rates for children; and
3. report to the legislature quarterly on the use of earned risk reduction credits.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/29/2021)