

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL DRH40392-MM-88A

Short Title: Study Criminal Justice Data Collection. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives R. Turner, McGrady, McNeill, and Faircloth (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO STUDY CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA COLLECTION.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Information Technology, Government Data
5 Analytics Center, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Department of Public Safety,
6 Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (the Departments), shall conduct a statewide
7 study to identify the criminal justice data elements currently collected and maintained by jails,
8 courts, and prisons. The purpose of the study is to (i) identify gaps in data and accessibility of
9 data for research purposes and for use by judicial officials and other stakeholders and (ii) to
10 identify solutions for improving availability and accessibility of data to inform public policy
11 through an integrated tool or other system. In conducting this study, the Departments shall
12 collaborate with at least five local or regional detention facility administrators, the University of
13 North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government, the Criminal Justice Information Network,
14 organizations concerned with criminal justice data, and any other stakeholders the Departments
15 deem appropriate.

16 **SECTION 2.** The study shall examine at least all of the following issues:

- 17 (1) The data elements currently being collected by each local and regional
18 detention facility with regard to each individual admitted to jail and each
19 facility's operation (e.g., admissions, population, revenue, costs), and the
20 current system for collecting, recording, maintaining, and searching these data
21 elements.
- 22 (2) The data elements currently being collected by the courts with regard to
23 individuals who have been charged with infractions or criminal offenses
24 including magistrates' records and information from the courtroom clerk such
25 as continuances, appearances, and failures to appear, and the current system
26 for collecting, recording, maintaining, and searching these data elements.
- 27 (3) The data elements currently being collected by Department of Public Safety
28 with regard to individuals who have been convicted of one or more criminal
29 offenses, and the current system for collecting, recording, maintaining, and
30 searching these data elements.
- 31 (4) The data elements needed for policymakers to understand the criminal justice
32 system, including the demographics, reasons for involvement, and outcomes
33 for individuals involved in the system at the county and statewide levels.
- 34 (5) Any gaps in data elements and whether any data elements that are currently
35 collected are inaccessible or made difficult to access or study because of
36 certain aspects of data management and data entry, and specific actions to



- 1 address those barriers to accessing and using data elements that are currently
- 2 collected such as standardization of data entry, use of unique identifiers, and
- 3 avoiding overwriting of data elements.
- 4 (6) Steps that would be necessary to create a statewide program to collect
- 5 county-level criminal justice data to inform policymakers and other
- 6 stakeholders, including solutions for integrating data from different systems
- 7 including options for integrating data that currently is collected, as well as for
- 8 addressing any data gaps identified, and options for making data elements
- 9 available to judicial officials and other stakeholders, as well as for research
- 10 purposes, in an open electronic format. Any recommendations should
- 11 consider any related privacy or data security issues.
- 12 (7) A review of best practices of other states that collect local-level criminal
- 13 justice data and integrate it with data from the court system and other state
- 14 systems.
- 15 (8) Any other related issues that the Departments deem necessary.
- 16 **SECTION 3.** The Departments shall report findings and recommendations to the
- 17 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology and the Joint Legislative
- 18 Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than March 15, 2020.
- 19 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.