



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1909

S.P. 750

In Senate, May 6, 2025

Resolve, to Provide a Comprehensive Analysis of Criminal Legal System Data

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

Preamble. Whereas, the criminal legal system has an immeasurable impact on and consequences for individuals who interact with it, specifically individuals charged with a crime and victims of crime; and

Whereas, it is essential that policymakers have an accurate and comprehensive understanding of how the State's criminal legal system policies and laws have been implemented; and

Whereas, criminal legal system data collection and data sharing has long impeded efforts to provide an accurate and comprehensive understanding of how the State's criminal legal system policies and laws have been implemented; and

Whereas, improving the State's ability to obtain an accurate and comprehensive understanding of how the State's criminal legal system policies and laws have been implemented requires analysis of how data is currently collected, stored and shared; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Independent study. Resolved: That, within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, the Department of Public Safety shall commission an independent study by contracting with an entity outside of State Government, referred to in this resolve as "the contracted entity," with experience and expertise in the collection and analysis of the State's criminal legal system data. The independent study must include an analysis of how entities across the State's criminal legal system are currently collecting and storing criminal legal system data and identification of the specific barriers to obtaining an accurate and comprehensive understanding of how the State's criminal legal system policies and laws have been implemented. The contracted entity shall develop recommendations for steps policymakers can take to address those barriers, including a multiphase plan with cost estimates if feasible.

Sec. 2. Access to data collection systems. Resolved: That municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies, the judicial branch, the Department of Corrections and county correctional facilities shall, to the extent possible, provide to the contracted entity reasonable access to data collection systems necessary to carry out the independent study under section 1.

Sec. 3. Report; legislation authorized. Resolved: That the contract entered into with the contracted entity must require the contracted entity to provide a report relating to the contracted entity's findings and recommendations to the Department of Public Safety by October 1, 2026. By November 4, 2026, the department shall submit the report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and judiciary matters. Each of the joint standing committees may report out legislation based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Public Safety to commission an independent study by contracting with an entity outside of State Government that will provide an analysis of the ways in which public entities in Maine with involvement in the criminal legal system currently collect and store criminal legal system data, identification of the barriers to achieving a comprehensive and accurate understanding of how criminal legal system laws and policies are being implemented and a multiphase plan to address those

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