

HB 3064 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/21/19

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-2-3-0

Yeas: 6 - Barker, Bynum, Gorsek, Piluso, Power, Williamson

Nays: 2 - Lewis, Stark

Exc: 3 - Greenlick, McLane, Sprenger

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands Justice Reinvestment Grant Review Committee from five to seven members. Includes two members that represent organizations that provide services for underserved racial, ethnic, or minority communities. Requires grant applicants to provide a statement of commitment to decreasing county use of prison beds through operation of the service or program the grant will serve. Requires application to include demographic data of the community served by the grant and a statement describing how the program addresses racial and ethnic disparities in that community. Directs the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to specifically assess the extent to which each county is reducing utilization of prison beds. Requires CJC to decline to grant the full grant amount requested, withhold approved funds, or terminate the grant award if the CJC finds that a county has not reduced use of imprisonment. States that money remaining from terminated grants may be redistributed through a supplemental grant program for projects servicing underserved communities. Requires the CJC to create an advisory committee, as specified, for the Task Force on Public Safety and report to the committee how funds are distributed under the program. Directs advisory committee to provide the Task Force on Public Safety with recommendations on how the CJC can increase equity in the allocation of funds. Requires CJC to provide a report to the Governor and the appropriate Joint Committee on Ways and Means subcommittee by September 15, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Efforts to reduce prison bed use should include reducing over represented populations in prisons
- Data shows agreement from all stakeholders is essential to reducing prison use
- Agencies and services need to be culturally responsive for successful re-entry and reduce recidivism
- Emphasis on equitable distribution of funds to underserved populations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Makes technical changes. Requires advisory committee to report to the Criminal Justice Commission not the Task Force on Public Safety. Requires CJC to provide a report to the Governor and the appropriate Joint Committee on Ways and Means subcommittee by September 15, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) allocates state and federal resources statewide for comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy development. As the State Administering Agency (SAA) for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), the CJC maintains responsibility for distributing, monitoring, and reporting of annual formula grants and, when applicable, competitive grants. Additionally, the CJC serves as the primary coordinating body for the acceptance, planning, and distribution of federal criminal justice funds leveraged to address the needs of the state criminal justice system.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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House Bill 3064 A directs the CJC to determine if counties currently receiving project funding are demonstrating progress toward the goal of reducing prison usage as laid out by the Justice Reinvestment Act passed in 2013. For counties that are not meeting their goals, the CJC will either put the county on an improvement plan with specific goals or discontinue funds.