

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 5: Public Defense Services Commission Information Technology Contract Extension

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Gorsek

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means defer the Public Defense Services Commission request to the May 2022 meeting of the Emergency Board with instruction that the Commission report back with a comprehensive information technology services plan and an assessment of the estimated costs, benefits, and risks of the alternative service-delivery methods, including both insourcing the agency's information technology function and outsourcing through external providers. With each alternative, the Commission shall describe how the security, privacy and confidentiality of data entered, processed or stored within the Commission's information systems will be assured.

PDSC's Information Technology Section was disbanded administratively by the agency in December of 2019. The Legislature in 2021, as part of an overall PDSC reorganization, provided \$1.1 million General Fund and four permanent full-time positions to reestablish the Information Technology Section; however, PDSC has yet to formulate a plan for such a reestablishment, which is viewed as critical to the public defense system and a precursor to the agency's acquisition of a financial and case management system.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.