

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 4: Public Defense Services Commission HB 5030 (2021) Reorganization Report

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: General Government Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Steiner Hayward

The General Government Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board acknowledge receipt of a report on the reorganization of the Public Defense Services Commission, as directed by the Legislature in 2021.

PDSC's report underscores a myriad of significant and systemic issues and challenges that exist within the agency. While a significant amount of effort is underway, and some good progress has been made, the Commission continues to operate without a prioritization of the problems faced by the agency and the public defense system, the range of potential solutions, the desired or optional outcomes, associated best practices, and recommended solutions. Instead, the Commission continues to make ad hoc tactical decisions outside of a strategic plan.

While governance and financial controls have improved, it remains to be seen whether pending changes to the agency's procurement of public defense services will serve to stabilize the state's public defense system or compound the many problems currently faced by the system.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.