

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 4: Criminal Justice Commission Unrepresented Defendant/Persons Crisis Plans

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Evans

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report from the Criminal Justice Commission on judicial districts' coordinated public safety unrepresented defendant crisis plans.

At present, the crisis has recently stabilized but is far from abating due to the public defense system continuing to be challenged by the demand for services and supply of public defenders.

SB 337 directed each presiding judge of a judicial district to develop and implement a coordinated public safety unrepresented defendant crisis plan. Each of the 27 judicial districts have submitted a crisis plan in cooperation with local public safety partners. Understanding which crisis team interventions have been implemented and are effective will be essential in determining future courses of action for not only the local crisis teams, but also the Legislature. In addition, the impact that the significant amount of General Fund investments and actions identified in the crisis plans will have on the unrepresented crisis will take time to be fully realized.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.