

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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To: Public Safety Subcommittee

From: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: May 17, 2023

Subject: SB 344 – Relating to the Criminal Justice Commission
Work Session Recommendations

SB 344 -A extends the Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Grant Program administered by the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) through July 1, 2033. HB 3194 (2013) established the JRI program which provides grants to counties for the purpose of creating processes to assess offenders and provide a continuum of community-based programs that reduce recidivism and decrease the county's utilization of Department of Correction institutions. Under current law, the program sunsets July 1, 2024.

With the sunset of the JRI program mid-biennium, CJC's 2023-25 current service level budget only provides one year of funding and position authority for the program. The costs to extend the sunset \$26.9 million General Fund for the 2023-25 biennium and \$56.1 million in 2025-27. Absent extension of the sunset, it is expected that the increased costs to the public safety system would include higher prosecution, public defense, and court costs, and increases to the prison population that may result in higher costs to the Department of Corrections. The Commission's budget bill (SB 5505) assumes passage of SB 344 and includes \$26.9 million for the JRI program continuations.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 344 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 344 to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation.
(VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____