

# SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

## Item 24: Public Defense Commission

### Agency Status

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee

From: Public Safety Subcommittee

Carrier: Senator Manning

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The Public Safety Subcommittee received a report from the Public Defense Commission on the status of the agency.

The Public Defense Commission reports making progress in most major areas of concern. Agency governance has improved, and the agency has successfully transitioned to the executive branch of government.

A one-year plan that was developed to address the unrepresented defendant/persons crisis has been successful in reducing the backlog of those awaiting representation. The agency is also undertaking intermediate and long-term planning efforts, and the agency forecasts remain within the 2025-27 legislatively approved budget.

Overall, the Public Defense Commission is making demonstrable progress to address the long-standing issues facing the state's public defense system and the agency itself.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report from the Public Defense Commission on the status of the agency.