



# SUMMARY REPORT

## *of Interim Committee Activities*

November 2023

### Recidivism Interim Study Committee

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**Legislative Committee Members:** Senator Robert Rodriguez, Chair, Representative Judy Amabile, Vice-chair  
Senators Julie Gonzales, Kevin Van Winkle  
Representatives Gabe Evans, Matthew Martinez

**Non-Legislative Committee Members:** Maureen Cain, Christie Donner, Sally Hill, Gordon McLaughlin, Abi Olson,  
Jack Reed, Greg Saiz, Adrienne Sanchez, Glenn Tapia

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### Committee Charge

The committee was created pursuant to Interim Committee Letter 2023-06 to align definitions of recidivism when used as a measurement of criminal justice related program success or failure. The committee met three times to:

- review agency and department definitions of recidivism;
- examine other state and academic approaches to defining recidivism;
- review other means to measure program success; and,
- align agency and department recidivism definitions to more clearly measure program effectiveness.

### Calendar of Events

#### August 2, 2023

- National Conference of State Legislatures presentation about recidivism definitions in other states
- Task Force of the Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems presentation about statewide recidivism definitions
- Overview by Disability Law Colorado and the Jail Standards Commission about recidivism definitions and tracking in jails
- Agency and community provider panels about recidivism definitions and measurements
- Public testimony

#### September 13, 2023

- Overview of recidivism policies and definitions on the national level
- Updates from Recidivism Study Groups: Common Definition and Alternative Matrix
- Public testimony
- Bill draft requests



## Recidivism Interim Study Committee

October 25, 2023

- Public testimony
- Final action on bill draft requests

### Recommended Legislation

As a result of committee discussion and deliberation, the committee recommends the following bills for consideration in the 2024 legislative session.

#### ***Bill A – Concerning Creating a Working Group to Develop a Definition of Recidivism***

The bill creates a working group in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to develop a common definition of recidivism for state entities that collect recidivism data. The working group must agree upon a definition by January 15, 2025, and include minimum components identified in the bill. Beginning July 1, 2025, all applicable state entities must include the definition developed by the working group in any documents or reports with recidivism data.

#### ***Bill B – Concerning a Study of How to Measure the Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System Using Metrics Other than Recidivism***

The bill creates the Alternative Metrics to Measure Criminal Justice System Performance Working Group in the DPS to study using alternative metrics other than recidivism to measure outcomes and performance of the criminal justice system. The working group consists of four members from various criminal justice and judicial related agencies who do not receive compensation or reimbursement. The working group must convene its first meeting by February 1, 2025, and submit a report to the General Assembly by July 1, 2025. As part of its work, the working group must consult with stakeholders and allow for stakeholder participation at its meetings.

#### ***Bill C – Concerning a Study to Examine How Individuals Proceed Through the Various Justice Systems***

The bill requires DPS to issue a request for proposals to study how individuals proceed through the various states of the criminal and juvenile justice system. At a minimum, the study must include:

- an analysis of the information technology systems used by criminal and juvenile justice agencies;
- an organizational matrix of process, personnel structures, and technology structures used by criminal and juvenile justice agencies;
- a detailed diagram of criminal and juvenile justice proceedings;
- a model-based systems engineering analysis of criminal and juvenile justice structures;



## Recidivism Interim Study Committee

- recommendations and best practices for creating more efficient operational and technological systems and procedures to be used in the criminal and juvenile justice systems;
- an analysis of inefficiencies within the various stages of the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and,
- an analysis of the types of metrics and information collected by criminal and juvenile justice agencies.

The DPS must enter into a contract with an entity to conduct the study by July 1, 2024, and submit a final report to the General Assembly by June 30, 2025.