

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

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**HOUSE BILL 885  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H885-PCS40446-SU-27**

Short Title: Study Criminal Justice Data Collection.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 22, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO STUDY CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA COLLECTION.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Information Technology, Government Data  
5 Analytics Center, and the Administrative Office of the Courts shall conduct a statewide study to  
6 identify the criminal justice data elements currently collected and maintained by jails, courts, and  
7 prisons. The purpose of the study is to (i) identify gaps in data and accessibility of data for  
8 research purposes and for use by judicial officials and other stakeholders and (ii) to identify  
9 solutions for improving availability and accessibility of data to inform public policy through an  
10 integrated tool or other system. In conducting this study, the Department may seek input from  
11 local or regional detention facility administrators, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
12 School of Government, the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Commission, the North  
13 Carolina Sheriffs' Association, organizations concerned with criminal justice data, and any other  
14 stakeholders the Departments deem appropriate.

15 **SECTION 2.** The study shall examine at least all of the following issues:

- 16 (1) The data elements currently being collected by each local and regional  
17 detention facility with regard to each individual admitted to jail and each  
18 facility's operation (e.g., admissions, population, revenue, costs), and the  
19 current system for collecting, recording, maintaining, and searching these data  
20 elements.
- 21 (2) The data elements currently being collected by the courts with regard to  
22 individuals who have been charged with infractions or criminal offenses,  
23 including magistrates' records and information from the courtroom clerk such  
24 as continuances, appearances, and failures to appear, and the current system  
25 for collecting, recording, maintaining, and searching these data elements.
- 26 (3) The data elements needed for policymakers to understand the criminal justice  
27 system, including the demographics, reasons for involvement, and outcomes  
28 for individuals involved in the system at the county and statewide levels.
- 29 (4) Any gaps in data elements and whether any data elements that are currently  
30 collected are inaccessible or made difficult to access or study because of  
31 certain aspects of data management and data entry, and specific actions to  
32 address those barriers to accessing and using data elements that are currently  
33 collected such as standardization of data entry, use of unique identifiers, and  
34 avoiding overwriting of data elements.
- 35 (5) Steps that would be necessary to create a statewide program to collect  
36 county-level criminal justice data to inform policymakers and other



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- 1 stakeholders, including solutions for integrating data from different systems
- 2 including options for integrating data that currently are collected, as well as
- 3 for addressing any data gaps identified, and options for making data elements
- 4 available to judicial officials and other stakeholders, as well as for research
- 5 purposes, in an open electronic format. Any recommendations should
- 6 consider any related privacy or data security issues.
- 7 (6) A review of best practices of other states that collect local-level criminal
- 8 justice data and integrate them with data from the court system and other state
- 9 systems.
- 10 (7) Any other related issues that the Department deems necessary.
- 11 **SECTION 3.** The Department shall report findings and recommendations to the Joint
- 12 Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology and the Joint Legislative Oversight
- 13 Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than March 15, 2020.
- 14 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.