

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 19-59**—sSB 880  
*Judiciary Committee*  
*Appropriations Committee*

**AN ACT INCREASING FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**SUMMARY:** This act establishes new prosecutorial data collection and reporting requirements for various agencies. Among other things, the act requires the:

1. Division of Criminal Justice, in consultation with various state entities, to (a) collect disaggregated, case-level data on adult defendants and (b) starting by February 1, 2021, annually provide the data to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM);
2. Board of Pardons and Paroles, starting by January 1, 2021, to annually report to the OPM secretary, and make available online, specified parole-related case-level data including parole hearing outcomes and demographic information; and
3. OPM, starting by July 1, 2020, to (a) annually present prosecutorial data to the Criminal Justice Commission, (b) report such presentation to the Judiciary Committee, and (c) make the presentation available on its website.

The act requires OPM to include in any such presentation made on or after July 1, 2021, the case-level data it receives from the Division of Criminal Justice as described below.

It also requires the state's chief public defender, within available appropriations, to establish a pilot program to provide representation to individuals at parole revocation hearings. Starting by January 1, 2021, she must annually report to the OPM secretary specified information on cases served as part of the program during the prior calendar year. Under the act, the report must include aggregate information on (1) how many public defenders the pilot program funded, (2) how many preliminary hearings and final hearings the public defenders served, and (3) the outcomes.

Lastly, the act also requires the Criminal Justice Commission to (1) post notices of its meetings on the commission's website and (2) hold any meetings to appoint, reappoint, remove, or otherwise discipline the chief state's attorney, a deputy state's attorney, or a state's attorney, in the Legislative Office Building with an opportunity for public testimony.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019, except the provision on the Criminal Justice Commission's meetings is effective October 1, 2019.

**CASE-LEVEL DATA OF ADULT DEFENDANTS**

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

The act requires the Division of Criminal Justice, in consultation with the Judicial Branch, the Department of Correction (DOC), and the Criminal Justice Information System Governing Board, to (1) collect disaggregated, case-level data by docket number on defendants who are age 18 or older at the time of committing an alleged offense and (2) starting by February 1, 2021, annually provide the data collected for the previous calendar year to OPM.

The data must be collected under the following categories:

1. arrests, including data on citations, summonses, custody arrests, warrants, and on-site arrests;
2. arraignments of individuals in custody;
3. continuances;
4. diversionary programs, including data on (a) program applications, diversions, and participants' successful completions and failures and (b) people in diversion programs on the first of each month;
5. contact between victims and prosecutorial officials, including data on cases involving victims;
6. dispositions, including data on pending cases and cases disposed of;
7. nonjudicial sanctions, including data on (a) sanctions applied, successfully completed, and failed and (b) individuals on nonjudicial sanction status on the first day of each month;
8. plea agreements, including data on the total number of plea agreements, agreements involving probation or prison, other agreements, and prosecutor's last best offer;
9. cases going to trial, including data on cases added per month, pending trial cases, plea offers accepted and rejected by the court per month, disposition by trial, disposition involving probation or prison, and other dispositions;
10. demographic data, including race, sex, ethnicity, and age;
11. court fees or fines, including those imposed by the court at the disposition of the defendant's case and any outstanding balance the defendant may owe;
12. restitution amounts ordered at sentencing, including any amount (a) collected by the court and (b) paid to a victim; and
13. the zip code of the defendant's primary residence.

The act prohibits disclosing any collected information that personally identifies a victim.

### BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES REPORT

The act requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles, starting by January 1, 2021, to annually report to the OPM secretary, and make available on its website, the following information:

1. outcomes of preliminary hearings, including whether or not (a) there was probable cause for a parole violation and (b) the alleged violation was serious enough to warrant parole revocation;
2. the number of individuals (a) remanded to DOC's custody for criminal and technical violations and (b) held in custody beyond a preliminary

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

- hearing pending a final parole revocation hearing;
- 3. outcomes of final parole revocation hearings, including whether there was a recommendation to reinstate or revoke parole; and
- 4. case-level demographic data, including race, sex, ethnicity, and age.