



Fact Sheet: SB 20-060

STUDY OPERATIONAL PROCESSES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sponsors: Senators Gonzales and Rodriguez, Representative Gonzales-Gutierrez

Bill Concept:

This bill proposes a comprehensive study of all the stages of criminal proceedings and programs through which an offender might pass. The study would include organizational structures and relationships, information systems and information flow, and existing inefficiencies.

Researchers would look at recommended best practices and alternative methods and structures used in other states. All agencies that interact with offenders would be included.

The Department of Corrections would solicit public comment.

Recommendation:

The members of Colorado Victims for Justice believe a comprehensive study of the operation of the Colorado criminal justice system is long overdue.

However, several important aspects of the criminal justice system are not included. As outlined, the study will show the impact that current criminal justice practices have upon offenders. We also are concerned about offenders and have worked in previous years to promote legislation that would improve prison safety and increase the opportunities for rehabilitation.

The impact of current criminal justice practices upon crime victims is also enormous and is not fully addressed in the present text of the bill. In some areas, such as parole board functioning, crime victims provide a critical perspective on system operation that is not available anywhere else.

To ensure that the resulting study is as fair and comprehensive as possible, we respectfully request that the bill text be amended on pages 3 and 4 as indicated in the attached file.

Conclusion:

Once it has the recommended amendment, we will support the bill wholeheartedly and urge everyone else to do the same.

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