

HJ 31 Study of Criminal Justice System Data: October Data Panelists' Responses to Request for Feedback on Section 1 of HB 693

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Bennet Wright, Alabama Sentencing Commission:

"My gut reaction to Section 1 boils down to a few things. I don't see much problem reporting the number of individuals sentenced that are still in county facilities after a certain time. From my experience however, it comes down to definitions. Some states (Alabama included) start the clock on an individual becoming a prison bound state inmate when the sentencing documents are agreed upon by the court system and the state prison system which can be different than the time of sentencing.

It makes me a little uneasy to report the identity of anyone to anyone. And I'm not sure the prison system is the best entity to report an offender's criminal history either. I guess I would start with what information can be gleaned from identifying criminal history by each individual and how will that be used? I think the court system (through court records) would seem to be the better source of information on that particular issue."

Sarah Lee and Ben Shelor, Council of State Governments

"Ben and I looked through it [HB 693] and Justice Counts is in support of any measures that will lead to an increase in the quantity and quality of data reporting. These metrics feel very specific to Montana, so we don't have more targeted feedback."