

Judiciary Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1387

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESCRIBED DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM
GOVERNING BOARD AND THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM

Title: MAINTAINED BY SAID BOARD.

Vote Date: 4/10/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/7/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill aims to clarify that the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) should not be restricted to sharing only offender-based data. CJIS-CT has developed and implemented the Connecticut information sharing system which serves as the referenced criminal justice information system for facilitating the comprehensive sharing of data relevant to the broader criminal justice system in Connecticut. The purpose of this change is to ensure that the criminal justice information system continues to facilitate sharing of data relevant to law enforcement and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system by including non-offender data. With this clarification, this amendment enhances data integration and sharing across agencies, ensuring a more complete and effective information exchange to support law enforcement, criminal justice processes, and decision making. It also seeks to clarify the duties of the Executive Director of the CJIS Governing Board by establishing that the executive director as the primary authority responsible for implementing the board's policies, and acting under direction of the board.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language strikes the language in the underlying bill, and adds a single sentence to the first section that summarizes that the former language in terms of what the CJIS board may authorize the Executive Director to do, and adds a new subsection in the second section regarding what is included in the "information technology system."

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Ronnell A. Higgins, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP): Commissioner Higgins submitted testimony, with concerns about the language in SB 1387, expanding the sharing of information and data relevant to law enforcement through the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS). Particularly, DESPP has concerns with added language in Section 2, subsection (c)(3), which they believe would have them disclose confidential information to non-law enforcement actors, potentially causing unanticipated drawbacks. The Commissioner, on behalf of the DESPP, gauges that the bill's language should be clarified and altered as the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board and DESPP assess the future of data sharing resulting from this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Donald Melanson, Chief of Police, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA): The CPCA supports SB 1387, deeming it enhances information sharing in the public safety sector and better specifies the role of the Executive Director of the CJIS Governing Board. The CPCA believes that granting the CJIS Governing Board a more expansive, accessible, and adaptable CISS system "without undue limitations" provides greater security and cooperation between law enforcement. They believe that an updated CISS, presenting "timely and accurate information," yields improved response times and safety, emphasizing the importance of privacy maintenance.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Genevieve Perruccio

Date: April 24, 2025