

Michigan Jails Task Force – Senate Legislative Package

Recommendations regarding citations, warrants, sentencing, probation, and parole.

Stakeholders

consulted:

*Prosecuting Attorneys
Association of Michigan*

Michigan Sheriffs' Association

Michigan Judges Association

*Michigan District Judges
Association*

*Michigan Sheriffs'
Coordinating and Training
Council*

*Michigan Association of
District Court Probation
Officers*

*Michigan Association of
Counties*

Michigan Municipal League

*Michigan Office of the
Governor*

*Michigan Department of
Corrections*

*State Court Administrative
Office*

*State Appellate Defender
Office*

*Michigan Coalition to End
Domestic and Sexual Violence*

American Bail Coalition

Safe and Just Michigan

Americans For Prosperity

Michigan Catholic Conference

Mackinac Center

*American Civil Liberties Union
of Michigan*

Detroit Justice Center

This bipartisan package of seven bills, addressing a portion of the recommendations from the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, will reduce jail populations and preserve public safety resources by limiting incarceration for low-level offenses. The package increases the use of citations and summons in lieu of arrests and warrants; prioritizes sentences other than jail for most misdemeanors and select felonies; tailors community supervision terms, conditions, and violation sanctions; and formalizes behavioral health training for jail officers.

Increase the use of arrest alternatives

For some low-level violations, a police officer can issue a citation, directing someone to appear in court at a later date and allowing them to avoid arrest. But many misdemeanors are not eligible for citation. Because making an arrest can take an officer off the street for hours, officers need the discretion to issue citations for all misdemeanors. For people who fail to appear for the first time on a lower-level case, courts should use a summons instead of a warrant or allow for a grace period before issuing the warrant.

SB 1046
by Victory

SB 1047
by Irwin

Prioritize alternatives to jail sentences

SB 1048
by Santana

SB 1049
by Chang

While most people pass through jail quickly, those who stay longer than one month take up the majority of jail bed space and are often serving a criminal sentence. Unless necessary, low-level offenses should be sentenced to jail alternatives. In addition, more young people should be eligible for deferred judgement of guilt under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act, preventing incarceration and giving them a second chance.

Reduce jail admissions for people on supervision

Michigan has the sixth highest rate of people on community supervision in the country, leaving tens of thousands of people at risk of jail incarceration if they cannot keep up with the rules of their supervision. Probation and parole violations together are the fifth most common reason for jail admission and a quarter of people jailed for a supervision violation stay longer than one month. Community supervision terms, conditions, and jail sanctions for violations should be informed by research and tailored to individuals.

SB 1050
by MacDonald

SB 1051
by McBroom

Train corrections officers on behavioral health

Michigan data shows that nearly one in four people admitted to jail have a serious mental illness. The safe functioning of jails depends on corrections officers being trained to identify individuals with behavioral health needs and respond effectively in crisis situations. A behavioral health training standard for local corrections officers should be required at the state level and developed in collaboration with experts.

SB TBD
by Lucido