

Sec. X. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE STUDY; REPORT

(a) The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall evaluate Vermont's restorative justice programming and services, including the administration and funding of pretrial services, court diversion programs, balanced and restorative justice initiatives, and community justice center services with the purpose to develop recommendations for a comprehensive and efficient statutory framework for programming and services that further restorative justice principles. In conducting its work, the Committee shall:

(1) identify disparities and variations between administrative rules, policies, procedures, practices, and results of restorative justice programming and services in different areas of the State;

(2) consider strategies for ensuring geographic consistency and equity for restorative justice programming and services, including equal access for all Vermonters and adequate resources for all providers; and

(3) recommend any changes to ensure streamlines restorative justice programming and services that coordinate the roles, responsibilities, and funding of the Department of Corrections, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Children and Families, and any other entity that administers restorative justice programming and services in the State.

(b) On or before November 1, 2022, the Committee shall submit a report to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on Judiciary, and on Appropriations, and the Senate Committees on Institutions, on Judiciary, and on Appropriations with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.