

Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail & Pretrial Incarceration

The Task Force:

In April 2019, Gov. **Gretchen Whitmer**, House Speaker **Lee Chatfield** (R-Levering) and Senate Majority Leader **Mike Shirkey** (R-Clarklake) brought together a bipartisan team of lawmakers, judges, law enforcement officials, activists & directly impacted people to address the problem of jail incarceration. They were asked to find solutions to the problem of rising jail incarceration at a time when crime continued to decrease.

After examining conducting research listening to people's experiences, the task force concluded that **Michigan sends too many people to jail for too long, and that jail admissions often occur for reasons other than public safety.** They released 18 recommendations to reverse this situation in January 2020, and many of those recommendations have become legislation now before the Michigan Legislature.

The Proposals:

- House Bills 5844 & 5855-5857 would remove mandatory jail sentences for certain misdemeanors. They have cleared the House and are before the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.
- HBs 5846-5857 and 5859-5854 would end the practice of suspending driver's licenses for things unrelated to unsafe driving. These bills have cleared the House and are before the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. (HB 5858 has been combined with another bill).
- Senate Bills 1046-1051 would encourage alternatives to arrest, incarceration in jail or probation. These bills have been approved by the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee and are headed to the floor of the Senate.

Further Resources:

- **Blog post:** Get to know the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail & Pretrial Incarceration recommendations: www.safeandjustmi.org/2020/01/28/get-to-know-the-michigan-joint-task-force-on-jail-and-pretrial-incarceration-recommendations/
- **Blog post:** First bills from Jails Task Force report reach state legislature: www.safeandjustmi.org/2020/07/17/first-bills-from-jails-task-force-report-reach-state-legislature/
- **Website:** Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration: courts.michigan.gov/News-Events/Pages/DataDrivenJusticeSolutions.aspx
- **Video:** Safe & Just Michigan has hosted webinars on key parts of the Jails Task Force legislation, including drivers license suspensions and ending counterproductive penalties: bit.ly/YouTubeSJM

Questions? Contact John Cooper, Executive Director of Safe & Just Michigan, at 517.258.1134 or john@safeandjustmi.org

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