



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

March 30, 2017

Michigan Senate
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:


Today I am vetoing Enrolled Senate Bill 11. This bill would have created a criminal justice data collection and management program within the legislative branch and would have required the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) and The Department of Corrections (MDOC) to gather data addressing a variety of matters relevant to policymaking within the criminal justice sphere. I recognize the critical need policymakers have for complete and accurate data. We cannot make wise policy decisions if we are not able to measure the impact of our decisions. Unfortunately, the present bill is not sufficiently comprehensive to address the significant challenges Michigan faces in collecting criminal justice data. It would require the expenditure of significant funds, but it would leave out key components necessary to achieve its laudable policy goal.

Collecting criminal justice data in Michigan is challenging because we do not have a centralized system. Instead, data is scattered across courts, jails, and police agencies in eighty-three different counties, utilizing several different data-management systems. Consequently, our existing criminal justice databases at the state level are incomplete and contain unverified data. Michigan's Judicial Data Warehouse (JDW) now lacks data from nineteen local courts. It is impossible to accurately measure recidivism for any Michigan offenders if data is absent, because an offender might be convicted in one jurisdiction and re-offend in another. Any solution must include all local jurisdictions. Likewise, no data exists on arrests or on the application of the sentencing guidelines within the JDW or any other database controlled by SCAO or MDOC. Given these problems, a significant expenditure of funds would be required to upgrade data collection systems in Michigan simply to begin satisfy some of the data-collection obligations imposed by the bill.

If we are committed to making the improvements necessary to establish a system that would allow for the collection of complete and accurate system of criminal-justice data, then all relevant players must be at the table and all relevant local data sources must be considered. The Department of State Police has important criminal justice data but it is not included within this bill. Without including all local jurisdictions and all relevant state departments, any effort to solve Michigan's data collection problems would be incomplete and would not adequately serve Michigan's criminal-justice policymakers.

It is my hope that the legislature will correct the shortcomings in this bill and enact new legislation setting forth a broad, comprehensive approach to gathering and reporting criminal justice data in Michigan. I am committed to working with Senators Colbeck and Proos and all state and local stakeholders to craft a solution that will enable Michigan policymakers to collect the complete and accurate data we will need to inform our criminal justice policy decisions in the coming decades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Snyder", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Snyder
Governor