

Pretrial Justice Coalition

Pretrial Transparency Act

The Pretrial Data Transparency Act aims to enhance the transparency of Minnesota's pretrial system by requiring the collection, analysis, and public reporting of pretrial data. The bill requires that pretrial data be reported to the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, analyzed for trends and disparities, and used to provide recommendations to the Legislature for system improvements.

This bill would create a more transparent pretrial data system. By shedding light on pretrial detention trends and disparities, the legislation supports public accountability and informed decision-making that can lead to fairer pretrial practices, reduce unnecessary incarceration, and improve justice outcomes for Minnesota individuals, families, and communities.

Minnesota's current pretrial data system lacks transparency, making it difficult to assess key aspects of the pretrial process, including the impact of bail on detention lengths and case outcomes.

Without access to pretrial data, policymakers, criminal justice professionals, and community members cannot answer basic questions like how many people are jailed pretrial because they can't afford bail, whether people jailed pretrial are more likely to plead guilty than people who are released, and how a person's bail amount impacts the length of time they are jailed before trial.

The absence of comprehensive pretrial data hinders efforts to identify disparities and implement reforms. By collecting, reporting, and analyzing pretrial data, this legislation seeks to:

- Identify areas where the current system is failing and needs reform.
- Highlight successful practices that can serve as models for improvement.
- Provide critical insights into the financial and social impacts of Minnesota's pretrial system.