



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

May 23, 2024

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S.195 (Act 138) – An act relating to how a defendant’s criminal record is considered in imposing conditions of release

As Enacted

Bill Summary

This bill proposes to add the number of offenses with which a defendant is charged and the recent history of pending charges against a defendant as explicit factors a court considers in imposing conditions of release.

Fiscal Impact

This bill would create the Pre-Trial Supervision Program. The Department of Corrections (DOC) estimates a cost of \$892,000 to fund the Program in fiscal year 2025. This bill does not include an appropriation for these costs.

Background and Details

The following sections have a fiscal impact.

Section 4

This section would create the Pre-Trial Supervision Program. The purpose of the Pre-Trial Supervision Program is to assist eligible people to improve pre-trial compliance with conditions of release, to coordinate and support the provision of pre-trial services when appropriate, to ensure attendance at court appearances, and to decrease the potential to recidivate while awaiting trial. The Program would operate only to the extent funds are appropriated for its operation.

DOC may support the operation of the Program through grants of financial assistance to, or contracts for services with, any public entity that meets the Department’s requirements.

Section 10

The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall review the Pre-Trial Supervision Program and make recommendations on or before September 1, 2024 to DOC and to the General Assembly on or before November 15, 2024. The Committee’s recommendations would include the most prudent use of any funds appropriated to operate the Program.