

SECTION . LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - SENTENCING, CORRECTIONS,

AND PAROLE OVERSIGHT. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall study the sentencing, correctional, and parole systems within the state, with a focus on improving transparency, consistency, and outcomes in the administration of justice. The study must include a comprehensive review of:

1. Sentencing requirements and incarceration impacts, including an evaluation of the potential impacts of requiring offenders sentenced to the custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation to serve eighty-five percent of their terms in secured facilities. The study must include:
 - a. Cost analyses;
 - b. Consideration of recidivism trends;
 - c. Consideration of rehabilitation and reentry opportunities; and
 - d. Input from:
 - (1) District court judges regarding sentencing decisions;
 - (2) State's attorney and defense attorneys regarding charging practices, plea negotiations, and trial resources;
 - (3) The department of corrections and rehabilitation regarding inmate classification, housing, early release, and transitional services including work or educational release; and
 - (4) The parole board regarding parole eligibility and release decisions.
2. The structure and function of the parole board, including chapter 12-59 of the North Dakota Century Code and any rules adopted by the parole board. The study must include:
 - a. Membership structure, appointment process, terms, quorum, and meeting transparency;
 - b. Parole eligibility requirements and determinations;
 - c. Victim rights and notification systems; and
 - d. The role and input of the department of corrections and rehabilitation in parole-related matters.

The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth legislative assembly.