

SEARCH Resolution 01-31

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

January 7, 2001

Comprehensive Criminal Justice Integrated Systems Act of 2001

WHEREAS, on October 9, 1998, the President signed into law S. 2022, The Crime Identification Technology Act of 1998 ("CITA"), Pub. L. No. 105-251;

WHEREAS, CITA creates a comprehensive approach for federal justice assistance for state and local criminal justice information, identification and communications technologies, emphasizing the integration of these technologies, and for forensics;

WHEREAS, although the authorization for appropriation for CITA is 250 million dollars per year through Fiscal Year 2003, the actual appropriation for CITA has been 130 million dollars in each of the last two fiscal years;

WHEREAS, this reduced appropriation has been divided among integrated systems initiatives, criminal history record improvement initiatives, forensics initiatives and specific earmarks for various criminal justice programs;

WHEREAS, the 106th Congress has just enacted S. 3045, the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act of 2000 which, among other things, provides an authorization for appropriations for forensics grants to laboratories operated by the states or units of local government for improving the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services in an amount just over 480 million dollars through Fiscal Year 2006;

WHEREAS, the balkanization of CITA's reduced appropriation has meant that criminal history improvement initiatives and integrated systems initiations are underfunded;

WHEREAS, CITA's authorization is targeted primarily for criminal history record improvement, including state centralized, automated, adult and juvenile criminal history information systems, and arrest and disposition reporting, automated fingerprint identification systems, participation in the Interstate Identification Index, participation in the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, participation in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, enhancement of sexual offender identification registration, enhancement of court-based criminal justice information systems, enhancement of domestic violence offender identification and information systems, enhancement of non-criminal justice criminal history background checks for youth service employees and volunteers, and statistical and research compatible with the National Incident-Based Reporting System; and

(More)

SEARCH Resolution 01-31, Continued

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for new, comprehensive legislation authorizing appropriations exclusively for integrated system development which encourages, facilitates and assists states and localities in developing and implementing integrated criminal justice information systems to manage and communicate criminal justice information among law enforcement, courts, prosecutors and corrections agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, that: "The Congress of the United States is urged to enact comprehensive, criminal justice integrated systems legislation to be administered by the Office of Justice Programs in the Department of Justice and to authorize for appropriations grants to the states in an amount of one billion dollars per year, for each of the next five fiscal years, to be used to develop and/or enhance integrated, statewide approaches for criminal justice information systems serving units of local government, state and local courts and state agencies, and all components of the criminal justice system."