

## SEARCH Resolution 79-04

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

May 21, 1979

### **Essential Elements and Actions for Implementing a Nationwide Criminal History Program**

**WHEREAS** the Federal government and the states have endeavored for more than ten years to create a centralized system for the interstate exchange of criminal history information; and

**WHEREAS** there is still no reliable mechanism through which a criminal justice agency in one state can expeditiously determine the nature and extent, if any, of an individual's past criminal activities in the other states, and

**WHEREAS** such information is vitally necessary to identify career criminals, reduce disparities in prosecution, sentencing, commitment, and parole decisions, and fit decisions and treatments to the individual criminal as well as to the crime, and

**WHEREAS** there is today an emerging consensus within the states and the Federal government as to an alternative approach to a workable nationwide program for the interstate exchange of criminal history information, and

**WHEREAS** SEARCH Group in its document *Essential Elements and Actions for Implementing a Nationwide Criminal History Program* (February 1979) has translated the conceptual foundations of that consensus into a set of specific actions capable of implementing a working program within less than one year, and

**WHEREAS** key actions must be initiated either by the Congress or by the United States Department of Justice,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Membership Group of SEARCH Group urges the Congress to establish such policy as will enable the creation of a nationwide criminal history program as delineated in the SEARCH Group policy paper and urges the Department of Justice to undertake appropriate administrative actions to facilitate that program.