

SEARCH Resolution 87-07

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

May 6, 1987

Criminal Justice Information Improvement Act of 1987

WHEREAS SEARCH has worked for improvements in the accuracy and completeness of criminal justice record information since 1969; and

WHEREAS the ongoing implementation of a national system for the exchange of criminal history record information operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Advisory Policy Board, and the enactment in 1985 of federal legislation mandating that state and local criminal justice agencies disclose criminal history record information to certain federal agencies for personnel security purposes and the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, in *Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press v. Department of Justice* opening federally-held criminal history record information to any person under the Freedom of Information Act, increases the urgency with which improvements in the accuracy and completeness of state and local criminal history records must be made and increases the federal stake in such improvements; and

WHEREAS it is therefore necessary and appropriate that federal funds be made available to improve the accuracy and completeness of state and local criminal history record information, wanted person information or stolen vehicle information; and

WHEREAS on November 6, 1985, SEARCH's Board of Directors adopted a resolution endorsing an earlier version of the Criminal Justice Information Improvement Act; and

WHEREAS SEARCH has worked with members of Congress and their staffs in drafting the Criminal Justice Information Improvement Act of 1987 which is currently being circulated in the form of a discussion draft as attached hereto ("May 1987 version of the Criminal Justice Improvement Act of 1987"); and

WHEREAS the May 1987 version of the Criminal Justice Improvement Act of 1987 will require the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to make grants to states and units of local government to improve the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of criminal history record information or wanted person or stolen vehicle information, provided that the funds from such grants are expended on the development, establishment or enhancement of certain enumerated programs including the development of uniform documents and procedures, verification systems, tracking systems, delinquent disposition monitoring systems, auditing programs, transaction log programs, automated systems, programs to facilitate communication between the courts and other parts of the criminal justice system, positive identification systems, and such

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other programs as the Director of BJS determines can reasonably be expected to produce improvements in the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of criminal justice information, provided that the state or local agency conducts an audit at its own expense, provided that the grant application specifies a numeric goal of accuracy, timeliness or completeness that will be achieved as a result of the grant, provided that the grants made are in an amount equal to up to 75 percent of the cost of the activities, except that the state or local share shall be offset by any amount which the state or locality has spent in conducting an audit and except that up to 20 percent of the funds authorized in the legislation may be expended on grants of up to 100 percent;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SEARCH endorses and urges the enactment of the May 1987 version of the Criminal Justice Information Improvement Act of 1987.