

## SEARCH Resolution 99-26

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

July 1999

### **Juvenile Justice Recordkeeping and Information System Reforms**

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 1999, the Senate passed S. 254, the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999;

**WHEREAS**, the Senate bill authorizes 75 million dollars in federal funding to the states for juvenile criminal history record upgrades, as set forth in S. 254;

**WHEREAS**, those upgrades are voluntary and provide that a state will be eligible to seek funds from the 75 million dollar juvenile upgrade fund if the state provides assurances that, within three years from the time that their application for funding is submitted, the state will:

- Maintain at the adult central repository a fingerprint-supported record of adjudications of delinquency of any juvenile who commits an act that, if committed by an adult, would constitute an offense of murder, armed robbery, rape (except statutory rape) or a felony offense involving sexual molestation of a child that is equivalent to and maintained and disseminated in the same manner and for the same purposes as an adult criminal history record for the same offenses.
- Maintain at the adult central repository a fingerprint-supported record of adjudications of delinquency of any juvenile who commits an act that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony (other than the felonies described above) that is equivalent to and maintained and disseminated in the same manner for any criminal justice purpose as an adult criminal history record for the same offense.
- Establish procedures by which school officials, in the appropriate circumstances, may gain access to these records.

**WHEREAS**, states that have implemented juvenile record reforms which provide for more comprehensive fingerprinting or more expansive dissemination than provided for in S. 254, will also be eligible for juvenile criminal history grants; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 1999, the House enacted H.R. 1501, which also includes juvenile justice record keeping and information systems reforms which are related to the Senate reforms but which penalize states which fail to adopt these reforms and which fails to distinguish between violent offenses and nonviolent offenses;

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**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 adopt the juvenile justice information system and record keeping reforms consistent with the approach taken by the Senate in S. 254, the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999."