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HOUSE BILL 1196

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representative Mosbrucker

1 AN ACT Relating to public transparency in the criminal plea  
2 negotiation process; creating a new section; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The sentencing guidelines commission  
6 shall study public transparency in the criminal plea negotiation  
7 process.

8 (2) The sentencing guidelines commission shall:

9 (a) Identify how often plea negotiations are used to resolve  
10 criminal charges;

11 (b) Identify methods to improve public transparency for victims  
12 and their families during the criminal justice process; and

13 (c) Analyze methods used by other states to provide opportunities  
14 for victim participation in or observation of plea negotiations.

15 (3) To achieve the purposes provided in subsection (2) of this  
16 section the sentencing guidelines commission may consult with  
17 affected stakeholders, including crime victims, prosecuting  
18 attorneys, defense attorneys, law enforcement representatives, and  
19 any other stakeholders the commission deems appropriate.

20 (4) By December 13, 2024, the sentencing guidelines commission  
21 shall submit a final report in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,

1 including findings and recommendations, to the governor and the  
2 appropriate committees of the legislature.

3 (5) This section expires December 31, 2024.

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