



TEXAS CRIMINAL
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FACT SHEET

TEXAS SHOULD CREATE A STATEWIDE REPOSITORY FOR RACIAL PROFILING REPORTS TO OVERSEE COMPLIANCE AND ADDRESS DATA ISSUES

ISSUE

Under Texas' racial profiling law (S.B. 1074, passed in 2001), each Texas law enforcement agency is required to annually create a report on the race of individuals they stop and search, and then submit that report to their local governing body.

No central repository was written into the law to collect and analyze the data on a **statewide** level.

PROBLEMS

Advocacy groups – who are currently the only source of cross-agency monitoring – have found that some agencies aren't properly reporting all of the required data elements, while others aren't collecting or reporting ANY data at all.

Non-compliance with the law **prevents local community members and officials from knowing what's truly going on at traffic stops in their areas**. It also **prevents agencies from being able to compare their data to other agencies' data** to determine if there are improvements to be made, or if there are practices they should be implementing to best allocate officer resources and increase public safety.

It is no longer excusable that some agencies continue to comply with the racial profiling law year in and year out, while others never do.

SOLUTION: SUPPORT S.B. 1448 BY SENATOR WEST

Texas law enforcement agencies should be required to submit their reports to an independent, neutral, centralized repository.

- **A repository entity would be able to ensure that law enforcement agencies are complying with the data collection and reporting requirements of the law.**
- **A repository entity would be able to implement a standardized reporting format, which would clarify exactly what data elements need to be reported (using uniform definitions).**
- **A repository entity would be able to produce reports that analyze data for statewide trends, which would help agencies identify ineffective police practices and implement best practices.**
- **A repository would be able to store the annual reports so that interested members of the public could contact the repository for information rather than having to burden agencies with open records requests (and the legal expenses and administrative costs that accompany them).**
- **Repository staff would be able to assist officers with technical issues and help members of the public understand the data analysis.**

LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE PUBLIC, AND OUR POLICY-MAKERS NEED A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AT TEXAS TRAFFIC STOPS TO CREATE BETTER COMMUNITY POLICING MODELS. A REPOSITORY WILL STREAMLINE REPORTING PROCEDURES AND GIVE THE STATE ACCESS TO A MORE USEFUL, RELIABLE, AND DETAILED SET OF RACIAL PROFILING DATA.