



Search Warrant Task Force  
Reviewing Committee  
October 21, 2021

**Minutes**

- I. Reviewing Committee convened. Attendees were Rep. Ed Massey (virtual), Chief Joe Monroe (virtual), Hon. Damon Preston, and Hon. Joseph Ross.
- II. The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from the previous Reviewing Committee meeting on 9/14/2021. Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Monroe seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

III. Discussion

The Committee recapped their recommendations. Mr. Ross outlined the Committee's proposals:

- a. The first recommendation is to add provisions to the e-warrant system that will allow jurisdictions to tailor their data entry in such ways that allow for comprehensive data collection.
- b. The second proposal is establishing prosecutorial review as best practice in the warrant review process. Mr. Ross, echoed by the other members of the committee, agreed that prosecutorial review is important in warrant issuance processes. A prosecutorial perspective can serve as an additional layer of scrutiny when examining search warrants, which will aid judges before they decide to sign (or refuse) a warrant.
- c. The third proposal is establishing mechanisms that mitigate “judge shopping.” Mr. Ross stated that if additional provisions for data collection are included in the e-warrant system it will reduce occurrences of judge shopping. Mr. Ross explained that the comprehensive data provided will reveal details and patterns that indicate which officers are approaching which judges (and avoiding others) for the issuance of search warrants.
- d. The fourth proposal is creating templates for law enforcement offices to use for the different types of search warrants. Mr. Ross asked Mr. Monroe if he would

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compile a comprehensive list of different forms of search warrants (phones, residences, DUI blood draws, etc.) for which the Committee could create templates. Mr. Monroe said that he would consult with his department and they would think on the possible scenarios where search warrants could be issued, and he would have that list available at the next meeting.

- e. Mr. Monroe also questioned whether the Committee should make a recommendation for continuing the Committee or forming another group for the purpose of expanding and examining search warrant data. Mr. Ross responded that he did not think it was practical for this Committee to continue past the deadline; however, he expressed that another group could be formed. Mr. Massey suggested that a group could be formed under the umbrella of the legislature. As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Massey said that he could organize a workgroup that involves the same members that comprise the Reviewing Committee. The Judiciary Committee workgroup could then conduct data review past the deadline of the Search Warrant Taskforce. The Committee agreed to consider the proposal.

#### IV. Adjournment

- a. A motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Monroe. Mr. Preston seconded the motion – motion was approved unanimously. Reviewing Committee adjourned.