



To: The Honorable Karen E. Spilka, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jennifer Franco, Counsel, Massachusetts District Attorneys Association

Date: January 16, 2018

Re: **Annual Report on the District Attorneys' Prosecution Statistics**

As required by Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2017,¹ the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association submits to the Ways & Means Committees data from the District Attorneys relative to their criminal prosecutions and workloads for calendar year 2017.

While the reports of the individual districts delineating their workloads by charge or category of work are attached, below please find a synopsis of the calendar year 2017 totals per listed category² pertaining to the ten districts that have reported thus far:

¹ 0340-2100 [MDAA] shall work in conjunction with the 11 district attorneys' offices to prepare and submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate no later than January 16, 2018, provided further, that the association shall provide the 11 district attorneys' offices with an agreed upon template for the report to be filled out; provided further that, that the district attorneys' offices shall submit the report in a standard electronic format; provided further, that the template shall include, delineated by charge type: (a) the number of criminal cases initiated by arraignment in each department of the trial court; (b) the number of criminal cases disposed of in each department of the trial court; (c) the number of cases appealed to the appeals court or supreme judicial court or any other appeals; and (d) the number of cases reviewed but not charged; and (e) the number of cases under active management where the case includes charges for drug offenses under chapter 94C or the General Laws, motor vehicle charges under chapter 90 of the General Laws or firearm offenses under chapter 140 of the General Laws.

² Data lists total charges with the exception of "Appellate Work," "Cases Reviewed/Not Charged," and "Other Work," all of which measure cases, investigations or a specific event.

Superior Court/Youthful Offender:

Arraigned: 263

Disposed: 258

Actively Managed: 570

Juvenile Court:

Arraigned: 15,804

Disposed: 17,246

Actively Managed: 25,287

Diversion: 3,119

Superior Court (Adult):

Arraigned: 19,420

Disposed: 17,881

Actively Managed: 40,630

District Court (Adult):

Arraigned: 328,328

Disposed: 324,637

Actively Managed: 401,955+

Appellate Work: 3,548

Cases Reviewed/Not Charged: 25,418

Other Work: 41,899

As also required by the reporting language of line item 0340-2100, please find specific charges below, broken down by court:

Superior Court/Youthful Offender:

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arraigned: 4

Disposed: 9

Actively Managed: 11

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arraigned: 13

Disposed: 10

Actively Managed: 23

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 76

Disposed: 52

Actively Managed: 138

Juvenile Court:

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arraigned: 1,421

Disposed: 1,642

Actively Managed: 2,250

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arraigned: 525

Disposed: 515

Actively Managed: 846

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 454

Disposed: 514

Actively Managed: 778

Superior Court (Adult):

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arraigned: 496

Disposed: 385

Actively Managed: 982

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arraigned: 3,878

Disposed: 3,695

Actively Managed: 8,219

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 3,069

Disposed: 2,622

Actively Managed: 5,049

District Court (Adult):

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arraigned: 125,618

Disposed: 128,132

Actively Managed: 148,683+

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arraigned: 36,382

Disposed: 36,808

Actively Managed: 44,153+

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 8,553

Disposed: 8,122

Actively Managed: 10,125+

Attached to this memo are the individual submissions from ten District Attorneys' Offices.³ The District Attorneys utilize the same case management system (DAMION) but differ significantly in how each office defines its data and inputs and reports that data, as well as whether certain data is even tracked at all. Please also note that, due to budget constraints, and resulting administrative staffing shortages, not all offices are able to input all cases (especially those in the district courts) into DAMION, resulting in underreporting of cases; and not all offices are able to quickly close disposed cases, resulting in over reporting.

³ Please note one county was unable to compile and finalize data prior to the deadline for this report. MDAA will immediately amend this report upon receipt of data from that county. Also note one county could not report "actively managed" cases in District Court. As such, this category summarized herein contains a plus sign "+" after the tally.