



To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Michael D. Hurley, Clerk of the Senate
The Honorable Steven T. James, Clerk of the House

From: Jennifer Franco, Counsel, Massachusetts District Attorneys Association

Date: January 13, 2021

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

As required by Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020¹ 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 2020.

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 2020 totals per listed category² pertaining to the 11 District Attorney Offices:

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 senate; provided further, that the association shall provide said offices with an agreed-upon template for the report to be filled out; provided further, that said offices shall submit said report in a standard electronic format; provided further, that said 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 courts, the supreme judicial court, a single justice of the appeals court or supreme judicial court or any other appeals; (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 of 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: 236

Disposed: 230

Actively Managed: 924

Juvenile Court:

Arraigned: 6,392

Disposed: 5,854

Actively Managed: 13,304

Diversion: 3,729

Superior Court (Adult):

Arraigned: 10,908

Disposed: 7,980

Actively Managed: 41,346

District Court (Adult):

Arraigned: 240,034

Disposed: 188,145

Actively Managed: 366,840

Appellate Work: 3,478

Cases Reviewed/Not Charged: 31,892

Other Work: 50,565

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: 5

Disposed: 4

Actively Managed: 21

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arrested: 4

Disposed: 2

Actively Managed: 14

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arrested: 52

Disposed: 42

Actively Managed: 209

Juvenile Court:

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arrested: 651

Disposed: 599

Actively Managed: 1137

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arrested: 197

Disposed: 189

Actively Managed: 370

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arrested: 356

Disposed: 259

Actively Managed: 564

Superior Court (Adult):

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arrested: 217

Disposed: 236

Actively Managed: 894

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arrested: 1,745

Disposed: 1,688

Actively Managed: 7,399

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 2,462

Disposed: 1,778

Actively Managed: 7,623

District Court (Adult):

Motor Vehicle (pursuant to MGL Chapter 90):

Arraigned: 94,552

Disposed: 84,442

Actively Managed: 128,873

Controlled Substances (pursuant to MGL Chapter 94C):

Arraigned: 20,703

Disposed: 16,146

Actively Managed: 36,071

Firearms (pursuant to MGL Chapter 140):

Arraigned: 9,073

Disposed: 4,856

Actively Managed: 13,209

Attached to this memo are the individual submissions from the 11 District Attorney Offices. 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. Finally, please recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ensuing court closures, have limited the District Attorneys' ability to prosecute cases in 2020. The backlog of cases continues to grow in 2021.