

Task Force on Mandatory Minimum Sentences

Workplan (Updated 12-01-2025)

Background

In 2025, [the Minnesota legislature ordered the creation of a task force to examine mandatory minimum sentencing](#). Specifically, the Task Force on Mandatory Minimum Sentences is “established to collect and analyze data on the charging, convicting, and sentencing of persons to mandatory minimum sentences; assess whether current laws and practices promote public safety and equity in sentencing; and make recommendations to the legislature.”

During the first Task Force meeting, the group created three subcommittees:

- Data: explore available secondary data regarding mandatory minimum sentences and the extent to which available data can answer various research questions
- Legal analysis: analyze Minnesota statutes and comparative state statutes and legal issues pertaining to mandatory minimum sentences
- Stakeholder input: contract with a vendor to conduct primary data collection with people affected by mandatory minimum sentences or professionals with extensive knowledge of mandatory minimum sentences

Figure 1 presents an overview of the activities the task force will complete by August 16, 2026 and the corresponding subcommittee that primarily leads each activity.

Figure 1. Overview of required activities

	Primary subcommittee
Collect and analyze data on charges, convictions, and sentences that involve mandatory minimum sentences	Data
Collect and analyze data on mandatory minimum sentences in which a person received a mitigated durational departure because the mandatory minimum sentence was seen as inappropriate by a judge or county attorney, or both	Data
Collect and analyze data on mandatory minimum sentences in which a person likely would have received a mitigated durational departure but for the enforcement of a mandatory minimum sentence	Data
Collect and analyze data on charges, convictions, and sentences for codefendants of persons sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence	Data
Review relevant state statutes and state and federal court decisions	Legal analysis
Receive input from persons who were convicted of a crime with a mandatory minimum sentence	Stakeholder input
Receive input from family members of persons who were convicted of a crime with a mandatory minimum sentence	Stakeholder input
Receive input from persons who were victims of crimes with a mandatory minimum sentence	Stakeholder input
Receive input from family members of persons who were victims of crimes with a mandatory minimum sentence	Stakeholder input
Analyze the benefits and unintended consequences of state statutes and practices related to the charging, convicting, and sentencing of persons of crimes with mandatory minimum sentences, including but not limited to an analysis of whether current statutes and practices promote public safety and properly punish a person for that person's role in an offense	All
Make recommendations for legislative action, if any, on laws affecting the collection and reporting of data and the charging, convicting, and sentencing of persons for crimes with mandatory minimum sentences	All

Wilder Research's role

The Minnesota Department of Corrections contracted with Wilder Research (Wilder) to support the task force and fulfill the legislative reporting requirements. Specifically, Wilder 1) provides meeting facilitation support, including producing agendas and meeting minutes and supporting the design of meeting activities and tasks; and 2) will draft, revise, and submit the report to the Minnesota legislature.

Timeline

2. Overview of Task Force meetings

Meeting number	Date	Topics
1	9/26/25	Introduction, election of chair and vice-chair, open meeting law overview, task force charge
2	10/10/25	Subcommittee creation, history of §609.11, overview of mandatory minimums
3	11/14/25	Predatory offender registration overview, review of New York mandatory minimum sentencing reforms report, review of state trends in mandatory minimum gun sentences report
4	12/12/25	
5	1/9/26	Review report template
6	2/13/26	
7	3/13/26	
8	4/10/26	
9	5/8/26	
10	6/12/26	
11	7/10/26	
12	8/14/26	

3. Project timeline with key milestone deadlines

	2025				2026							
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Task Force meeting number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Task Force meeting dates	9/26	10/10	11/14	12/12	1/9	2/13	3/13	4/10	5/8	6/12	7/10	8/14
Milestone deadlines												
Data subcommittee obtains data required for analysis												
Data subcommittee analyzes data and shares findings with Wilder to incorporate into the legislative report												
Contractor conducts primary data collection in partnership with the Stakeholder Input subcommittee												
Contractor summarizes primary data collection findings												
Task Force members determine final recommendations												
Wilder drafts report												
Task Force members review report draft												
Wilder revises and finalizes report												
Report due to the legislature (8/16/26)												