

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** As introduced

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**Subject:** Crime Data Collection

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### Overview

This bill gives the BCA authority to shift Minnesota to a nationally recognized system or standard for collecting crime data.

Brief descriptions of the crime data systems that come into play follow:

**Minnesota Offense Code (MOC) system:** Under current policy in Minnesota, law enforcement agencies are supposed to gather crime data utilizing the MOC code system. The system uses a series of codes to classify criminal offense information. It is a relatively detailed system that considers not only the elements and statutory reference of a crime when classifying it, but also other related information, such as weapon usage, victim information, and offense location. More than 29,000 variations can result.

**Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system:** When we transfer our crime data to the FBI, it is converted to a less detailed UCR format. Because it is used to compare crime statistics in multiple states, it does not contain coding related to specific statutory sections. Instead, it classifies crimes in general categories (such as "forcible rape" or "burglary") to make more useful comparisons. Most of the crime trend data you hear or read about is based on the UCR system of reporting.

**National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS):** This is another federally sponsored system that is on track to replace UCR. NIBRS differs from UCR in several important ways. It utilizes slightly more offense types. It includes details on offenders, victims, property, and weapon information (for all violent offenses). It also records each offense occurring in an incident (UCR only looks at the most

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serious offense in a given incident). There are also other differences. This is the system the federal government wants all states to move to in the future.

**Section**

- 1**      **Division of criminal statistics.** Requires the BCA to utilize a nationally recognized system or standard for collecting crime data to the extent possible.
- 2**      **Local cooperation.** Requires local agencies to utilize a nationally recognized system or standard for reporting crime statistics to the BCA.