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Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Applauds Governor Ducey's Signing of Senate Bills 1295 and 1373

New Laws Will Enhance Public Safety for All Arizona Citizens by Closing Gap in Criminal History Records and Providing Mental Health Court Rulings to Law Enforcement Officers

Phoenix, AZ, Friday, April 3, 2015 – Today, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) applauded Governor Ducey's signing of Senate Bills 1295 and 1373 which will enhance law enforcement officer and public safety by closing a critical gap in criminal history records and ensuring law enforcement officers have the most complete information possible when dealing with individuals with serious mental health issues as determined by a court.

"With Governor Ducey's signature of Senate Bills 1295 and 1373, Arizona took an important step towards enhancing law enforcement officer and public safety," said ACJC's Executive Director John Blackburn, Jr. "We would like to thank Senate Public Safety, Military & Technology Committee Chairman Steve Smith and Government Committee Chairman John Kavanagh for introducing and championing these important bills through the legislative process."

Senate Bill 1295 will enhance public safety by ensuring that everyone that is arrested and convicted has an accurate criminal history created for that offense. Specifically it:

- Requires the court at the time of sentencing for certain offenses to permanently affix a defendant's fingerprint to the sentence document or minute order, or record the defendant's two-fingerprint biometric-based identifier in the case file.
- It also requires that if the booking agency cannot determine whether legible ten-print fingerprints were taken from the arrestee they shall take the ten-print fingerprint.

Senate Bill 1373 will enhance law enforcement officer and public safety by ensuring that Arizona's law enforcement officers have the most complete information possible when dealing with individuals with serious mental health issues as determined by a court. Specifically it:

- Provides law enforcement officers on the street a limited notification indicator of these court rulings.
- For the purpose of enforcing a court order, assisting in an investigation, or returning property; authorizes the Department of Public Safety to provide a law enforcement agency with access to case information it receives from the Supreme Court pursuant to Sections 13-609, 14-5304, and 36-540.

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Created in 1982, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is a statutorily authorized entity mandated to carry out various coordinating, monitoring and reporting functions regarding the administration and management of criminal justice programs in Arizona. The ACJC serves as a resource and service organization for Arizona's criminal justice community on a myriad of issues ranging from drugs, gangs and victim assistance to criminal history, and crime laboratory enhancements.