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To: SENTAC
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Subject: New Drug Law Emerging Charging Patterns

This overview is provided to show emerging charging patterns in the early stages of the state's new drug laws that took effect on September 1, 2011. The Center identified cases involving drug charges from two months prior to implementation to about 2 ½ months after implementation of the new laws. Resulting counts are as follows.

Old law sample: Two months of arrests from July – August 2011
1,353 drug cases

New law sample: 75 days from September 1 thru morning of November 14
1,313 drug cases with occur dates after August 2011 (additional arrests with occur dates prior to September were not counted)

Offense grades in the table below refer to drug charges only.

	Old Law	New Law
Sample drug cases	1,353	1,313
Felony drug cases	520 (38.4% sample cases)	405 (30.8% of sample cases)
Felony B cases	51 (9.8% of felony cases, 3.8% of sample cases)	62 (15.3% of felony cases, 4.7% of sample cases)
Felony B, C, or D cases	198 (38.1% felony cases, 14.6% of sample cases)	336 (83% of felony cases, 25.6% of sample cases)
Misdemeanor drug cases	833 (61.6% of sample cases)	908 (69.2% of sample cases)
Misdemeanor A cases	593 (71.2% of misd cases, 43.8% of sample cases)	119 (13.1% of misd cases, 9.1% of sample cases)
Misdemeanor B cases	227 (27.3% of misd cases, 16.8% of sample cases)	579 (63.8% of misd cases, 44.1% of sample cases)

The chart on the next page, which represents all drug charges in the cases mentioned above, shows an apparent spreading of offense grades in both directions from the mid-range of felony F through misdemeanor A.

Drug Charge Type/Class Percentages, New Versus Old Laws (approximately two months pre- and post-implementation)

