

legality of the Phase I plan, and, in doing so, to discuss at length the issues of the security, privacy, and retrieval of information used by components of the criminal justice system and contained in the Public Safety Data Center. 63 Opinions of the Attorney General (January 10, 1978). These issues were of major concern in last year's veto of House Bill 459.

The Phase I reorganization plan was approved by the General Assembly in the Budget. At the same time, House Bill 948 was presented to the General Assembly to provide the statutory authority and policy for the "full cooperation and cohesive planning and effort by and between the several State departments and agencies" with the objective of ensuring the maximum benefit from current and future data processing activities. The bill, as drafted, resolved the objections raised by House Bill 459 of 1977. It was a far superior product and represented an additional year's consideration of the issues raised in the veto of House Bill 459.

In an uncodified section of House Bill 948, the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning is directed to adhere to a three-phase schedule for the reorganization of the State's data processing resources. The phases are essentially the same as those contained in the veto message of House Bill 459, with the addition of specific deadlines for the completion of each phase. Phase I, as contained in House Bill 948, is the same Phase described in the Budget Bill.

House Bill 948 directs the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning to institute plans and procedures and promulgate rules and regulations for all State data processing activities. These include the monitoring of the security of data stored in the data centers, the sharing with, or the sale or lease of data processing services among governmental agencies, the approval of data processing contracts and acquisitions for all State agencies, and the management of a process of competitive bidding for the procurement of most data processing equipment and goods.

The duties imposed upon the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning by House Bill 948 are stated to be in addition to its duties under Article 15A, Section 23B of the Code. This Section charges the Secretary of the Department with the responsibility for "planning and controlling data processing in the several departments and agencies of the State government". It further provides that the Secretary shall review and approve the purchase, lease, or rental of data processing equipment for all State departments and agencies.

House Bill 948 originally applied to all State agencies, departments, boards, commissions, or institutions