



accounting for approximately 5% of all county spending, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts; and

Whereas, Local jails are primarily utilized for pretrial detention, including for individuals held on monetary bail, creating a fundamental unfairness to detainees who lack sufficient financial means to secure their own release; and

Whereas, Pretrial detention may incur serious social and criminogenic costs, including increased recidivism, without producing a commensurate increase in court efficiency, according to a 2019 research summary from the Vera Institute of Justice; and

Whereas, Even as New York State jail incarceration rates have generally decreased in recent years, both in absolute terms and relative to national trends, 17 counties still experienced increases in jail incarceration over the decade prior to 2021, as measured by data provided by the Vera Institute of Justice; and

Whereas, The requirement that all counties maintain a jail fuels the presumptive use of incarceration as a first-line measure in response to alleged criminality; and

Whereas, New York's current statutory scheme inhibits local ingenuity and restricts the ability of local policymakers to develop new approaches to criminal justice that do not rely primarily on incarceration; and

Whereas, Principles of democracy and community self-determination further demand that communities be permitted to implement new and innovative approaches to the criminal justice system that align with the values of the local electorate; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation repealing all provisions of law that require most counties to maintain a jail.

CMB  
LS #12700  
4/11/2023