



Damon Allen Act Bail Proceedings and Public Safety Report System - Fiscal Year 2025 Report

The Damon Allen Act

In September 2021, during the Second Called Special Session of the 87th Legislature, Senate Bill 6, also known as the Damon Allen Act, was enacted. The Damon Allen Act established procedures for setting bail and the reporting of bail information, certification and reporting requirements for charitable bail organizations, amended procedures regarding cash bail bonds, and specified additional training requirements for all magistrates. The bill also required the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to implement a public safety report system for statewide use for officials in each county and each municipality that perform magistrations.

The system was designed for magistrates to review a Public Safety Report produced by the system with a summary of criminal history information. After review, the bail form is completed through the system indicating the Bail type, amount, and conditions.



Officer Damon Allen

Photo courtesy Texas Department of Public Safety

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Bail Proceedings and Public Safety Report System Fiscal Year 2025

The Office of Court Administration (OCA) continues to advance the Damon Allen Act established by Senate Bill 6 of the 87th Legislative Second Called Special Session. This legislation enhanced magistration processes by ensuring judicial officers have reliable and comprehensive information about each individual when setting bail. The Public Safety Report System (PSRS) provides magistrates access to criminal history, statutory considerations, and other information necessary to evaluate both the individual before the court, and the broader implications for community safety. Bail decisions are captured in a standardized bail form, transmitted to OCA, and published through public online dashboards (<https://baildashboard.txcourts.gov/>), promoting transparency and consistency in data reporting statewide.

Prior to implementation of the PSRS, access to criminal history and other critical information varied across counties, sometimes leaving magistrates with an incomplete understanding of an individual's background. The PSRS has significantly improved the quality and completeness of information available to magistrates in every jurisdiction, equipping them with critical details necessary for informed pretrial decision making and public safety considerations. The report remains accessible throughout the lifecycle of the case, enabling judicial officers to review or modify the report as the individual and case progress through the criminal justice system.

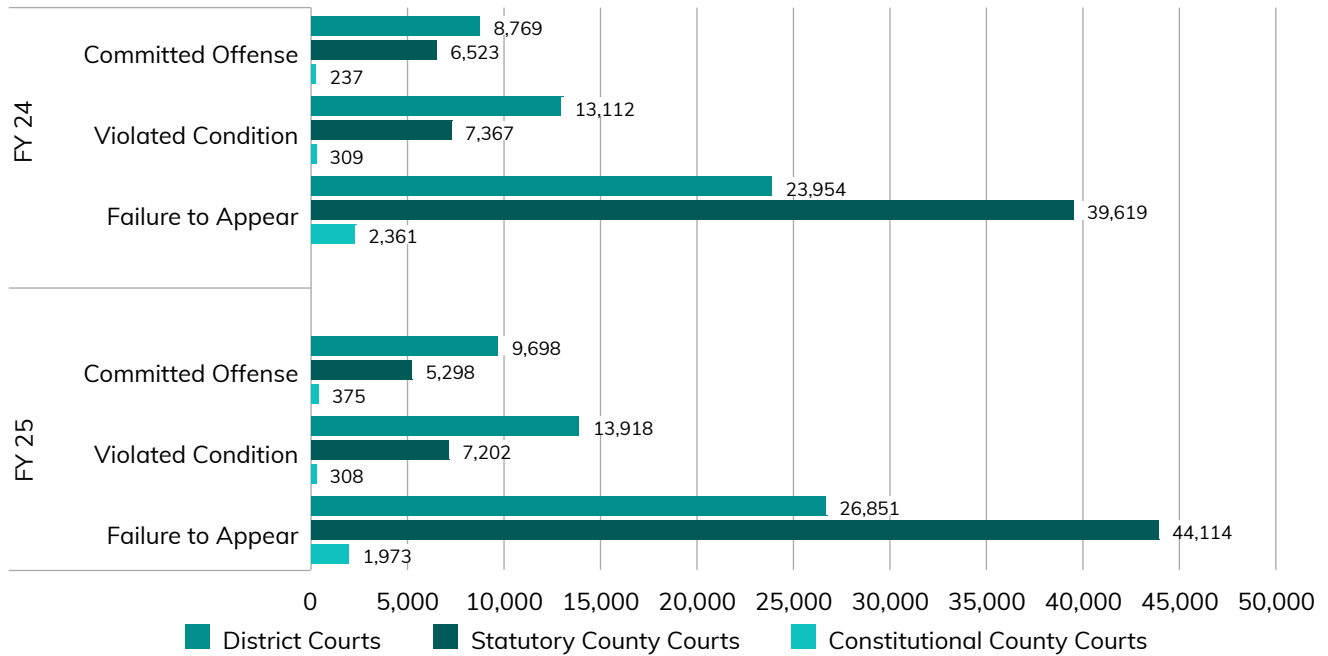
Now in its fourth year of operation, the PSRS has transitioned from implementation to refinement by expanding functionality, strengthening data quality, and supporting local jurisdictions as they adapt to evolving legislative requirements. The system has fostered deeper engagement across all 254 counties, promoting sustained dialogue among judges, county leadership, and justice system partners statewide. This communication network continues to support statutes set forth in the Damon Allen Act and supports consistent application and use across jurisdictions.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2025, OCA focused on enhancing user support, improving system performance, and preparing for new statutory requirements under Senate Bill 9 of the 89th Legislative Session. As the system continues to be enhanced, statewide usage has expanded in both scale and consistency. Activity within the PSRS provides a view of bail practices across Texas, reflecting the daily work of magistrates and court personnel in every region. Continued utilization will further strengthen the State's capacity to monitor trends, evaluate statutory implementation, and assess how bail decisions are being made statewide.

Court Activity Reporting

Pursuant to Government Code Section 71.0351 (a)(1)(A-C), clerks of courts that set bail are required to report the number of defendants by offense category, as well as the number of personal and surety or cash bonds in their Judicial Council Monthly Court Activity Reports. The statute further requires reporting for three types of violations of release on bond. Failure to Appear continues to be the most reported release violation.

Fiscal Year Comparison of Non-PSR Reports Across Court Levels



The remaining data elements in this report are drawn directly from the bail forms submitted to the OCA.

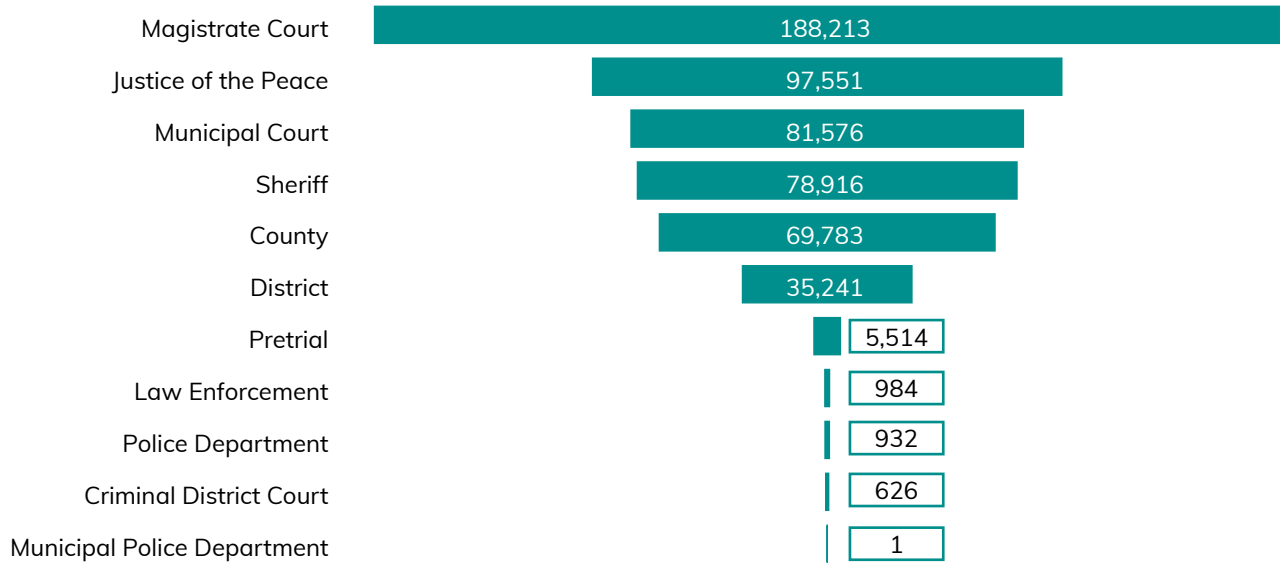
System Use and Statewide Metrics

The statistics presented in this report reflect real-time entries made within the PSRS rather than separate clerk submissions, providing a more direct and consistent view of statewide bail activity. Because the PSRS data can be modified to correct or update entries through the lifecycle of the case, figures may be subject to retroactive change as jurisdictions reconcile their reports. While data volume continues to grow, the datasets remain in an early stage of development for identifying clear statewide trends.

Completed Bail Forms by Location

A single county may have multiple contributing agencies within the PSRS, including sheriff's offices, justices of the peace and municipal courts, county and district courts, magistrate offices, and pretrial service departments. Each user group may be responsible for a different portion of the workflow and may have different involvement points throughout the lifecycle of the case. A majority of completed bail forms continue to be submitted from magistrate courts. However, as shown below, other agencies also contribute to front-end data entry and submission.

Completed Bail forms by Location Fiscal Year 2025

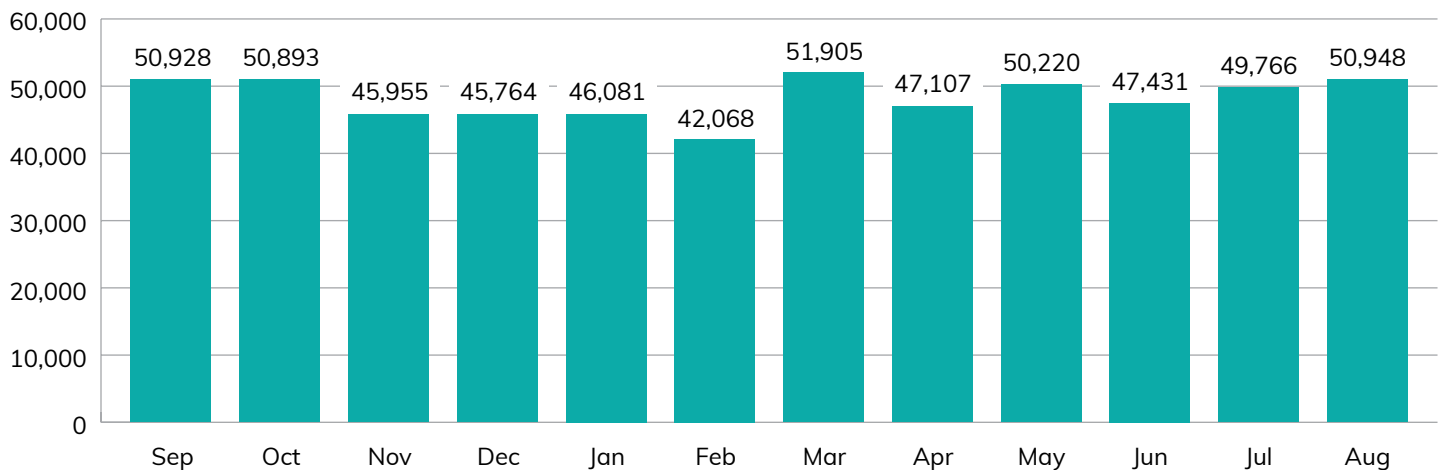


A bail form is considered completed when it is certified by or on behalf of the magistrate. The Damon Allen Act required certification within 72-hours of magistration.

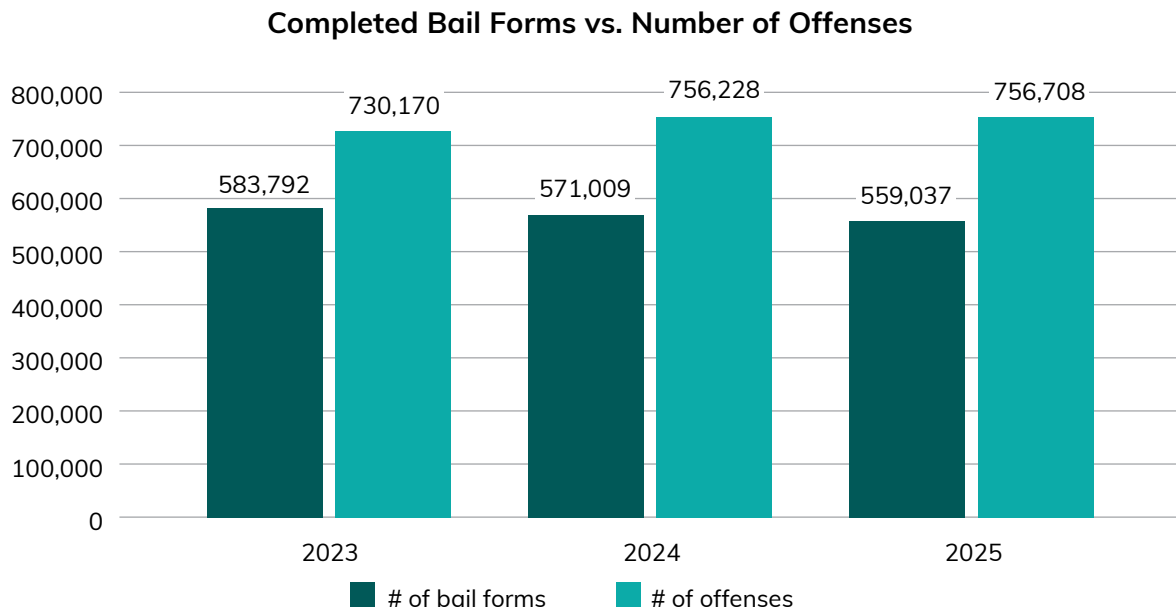
Comparison of Completed and Modified Bail Forms

Throughout this fiscal year, jurisdictions entered significant volumes of data into the PSRS and generated thousands of bail forms each month. A total of 559,037 bail forms were completed for 756,708 offenses in FY 2025.

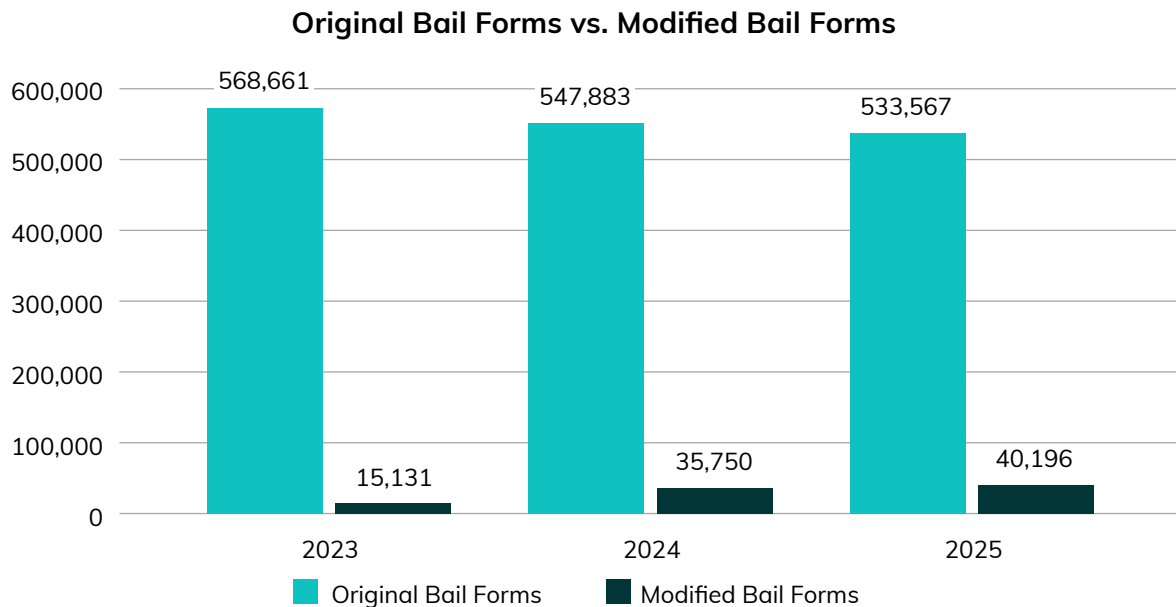
Fiscal Year 2025 Monthly Bail Form Submissions



Because a single bail form can encompass multiple new arrests for the same individual, bail form counts appropriately trail offense counts.



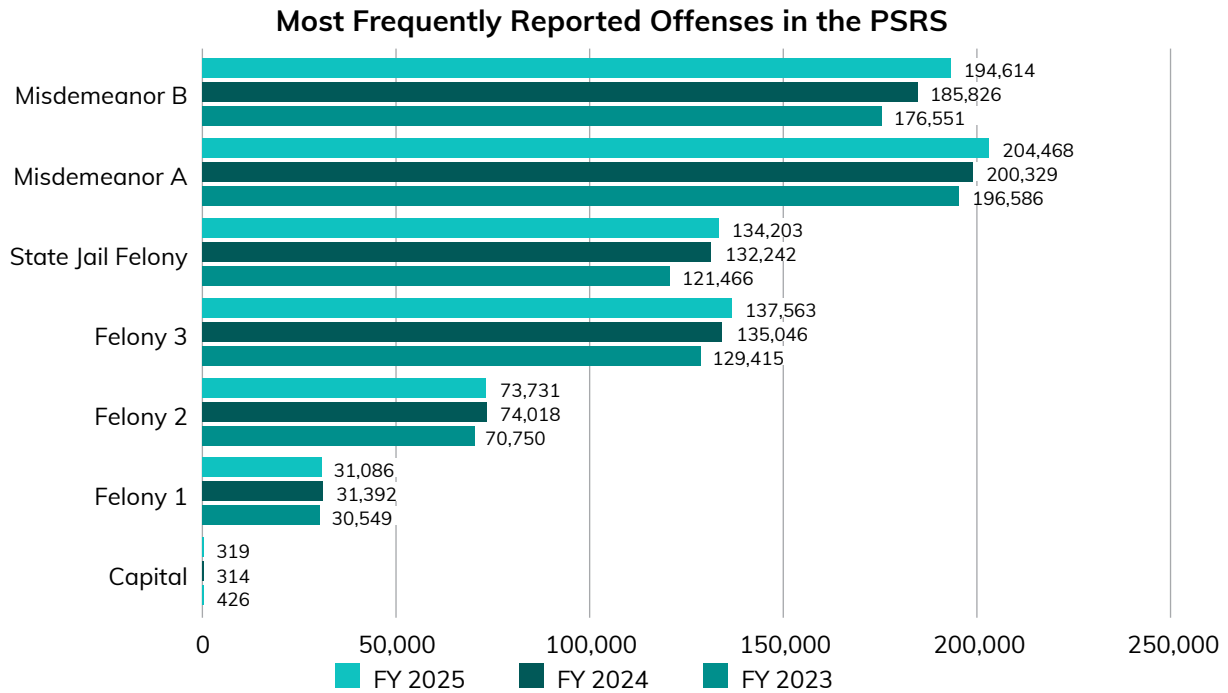
As previously noted, the PSRS supports documentation throughout the lifecycle of an individual's case. When a defendant fails to comply with bond conditions or is arrested for new offenses, judicial officers can update the existing bail form to reflect modifications to conditions or bail amounts. The number of these modifications increased as system usage has expanded beyond initial magistration and into trial court stages of case processing.



Offenses Reported

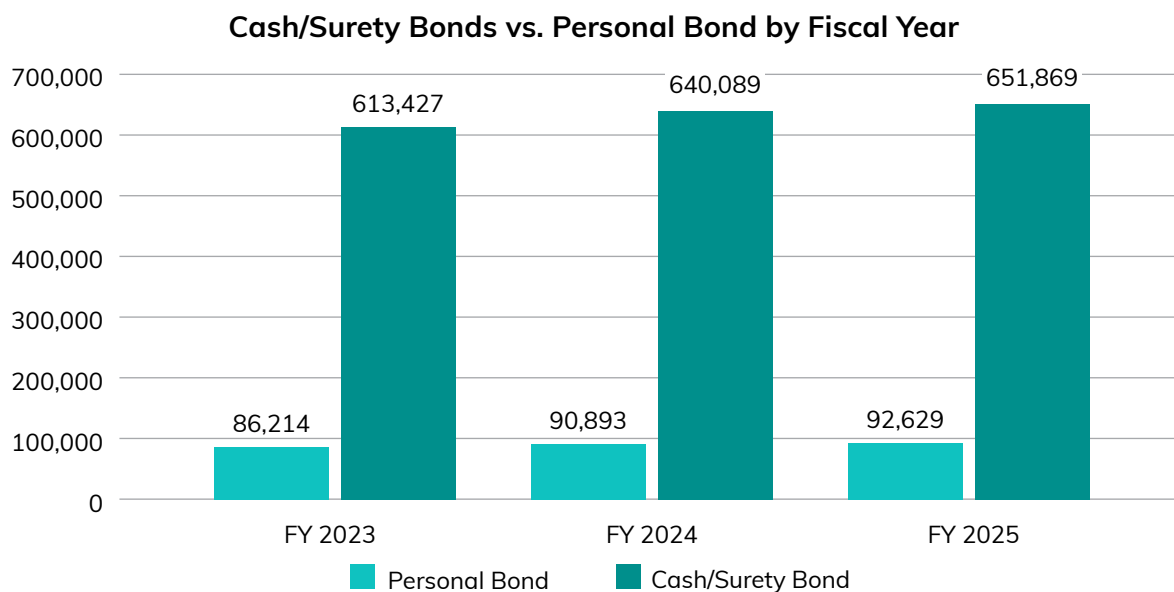
State law requires that any offense above a Class C misdemeanor be entered into the PSRS to generate the Public Safety Report that a magistrate must consider before making a bail decision. The chart below illustrates the offense levels for all submitted bail forms over the last three fiscal years.

A deeper review of the reported offenses conclude that the five most reported offenses have remained the same across each year of the PSRS implementation. Four of the five offenses are misdemeanors, with Possession of a Controlled Substance (penalty group 1/1-B <1g) being the only felony represented in the top five.



Aggregate Bail Decision Data

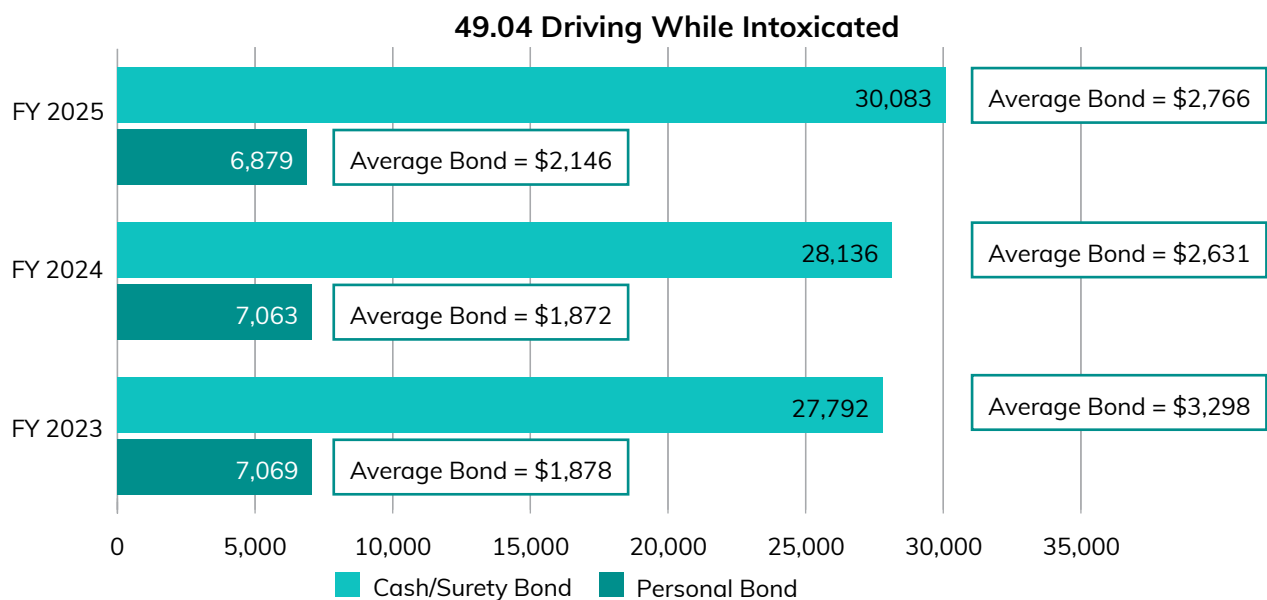
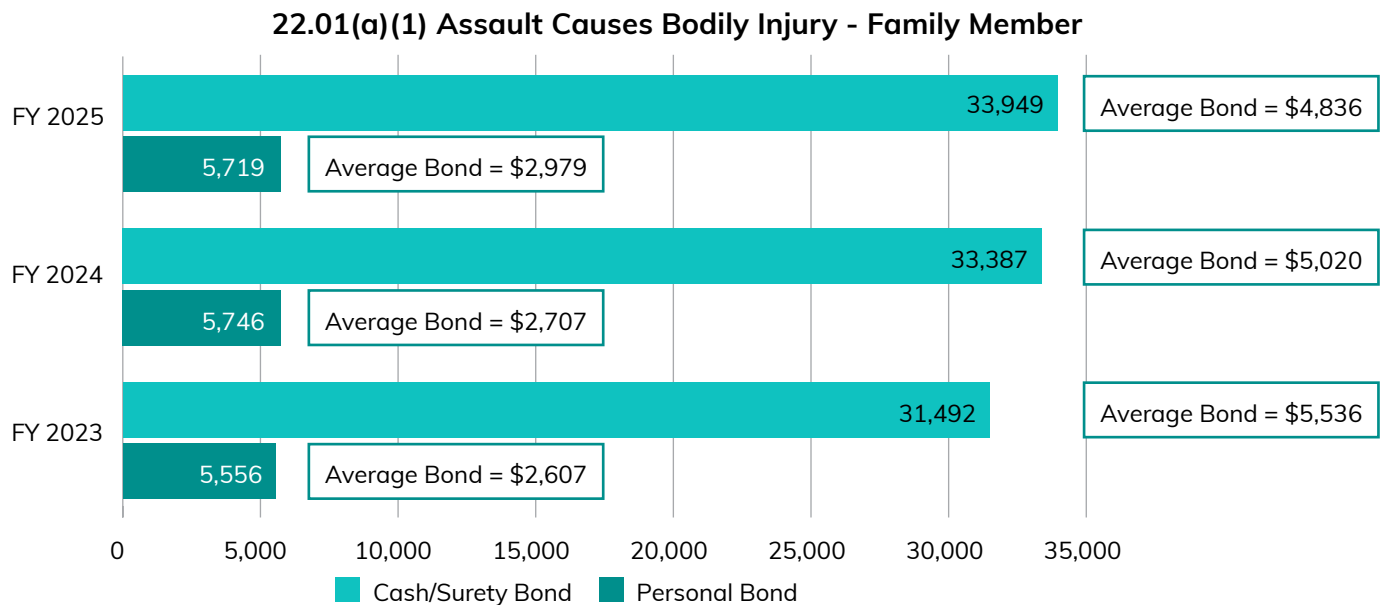
Trends across FY 2023, FY 2024 and FY 2025 highlight gradual shifts in bond types, including statewide increases in the use of personal bonds, alongside continued reliance on cash surety bonds.



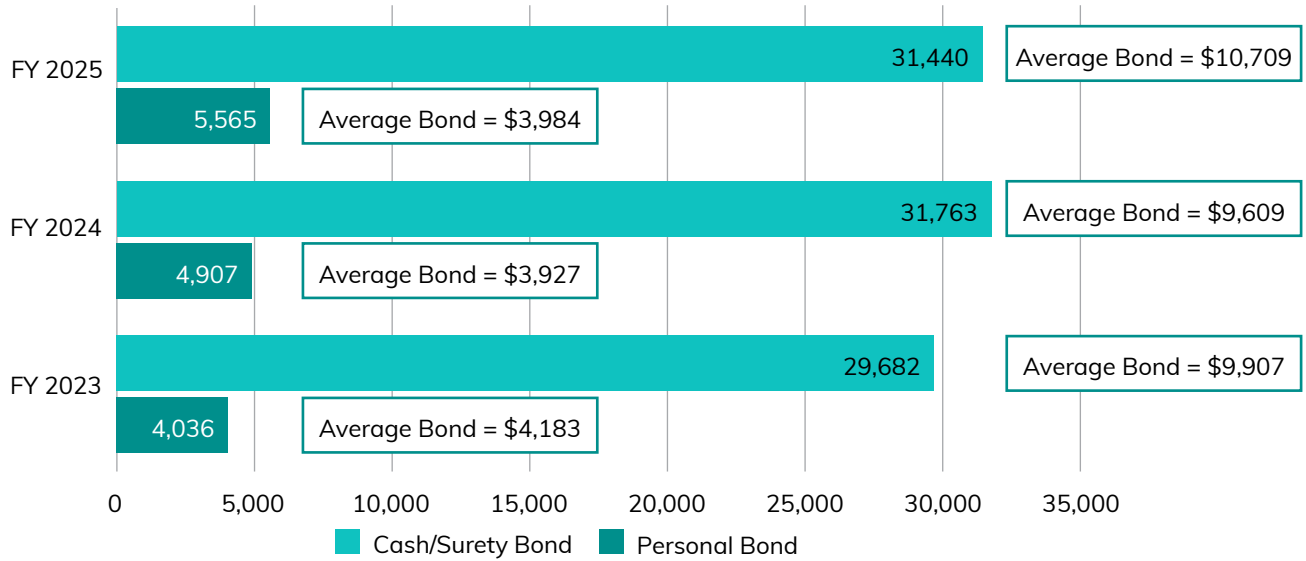
Bail Decisions by Offense

While statewide metrics demonstrate broad trends in bond usage, further examination of offense-specific data allows for a more precise assessment of how pretrial practices are being applied. A closer analysis of the most reported offenses provides additional insight into the relationship between offense type, bond type, and average bond amounts.

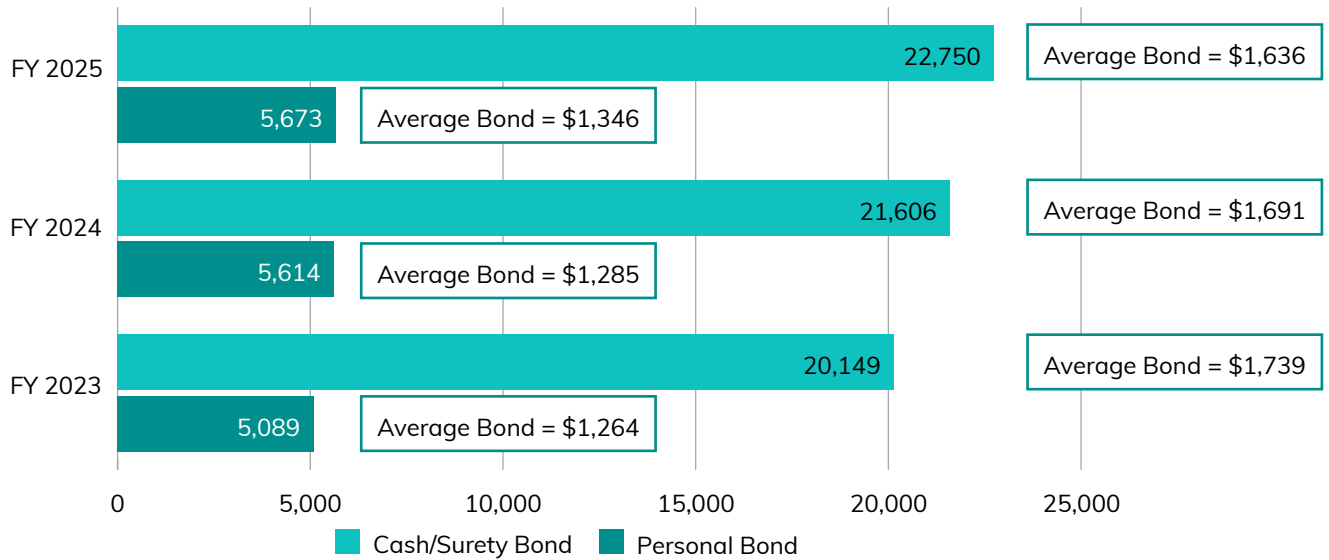
Although the number of cases for each offense has stayed relatively consistent, emerging changes in bond usage and average bond amounts offer a clearer understanding of how release practices differ across distinct categories of criminal conduct.

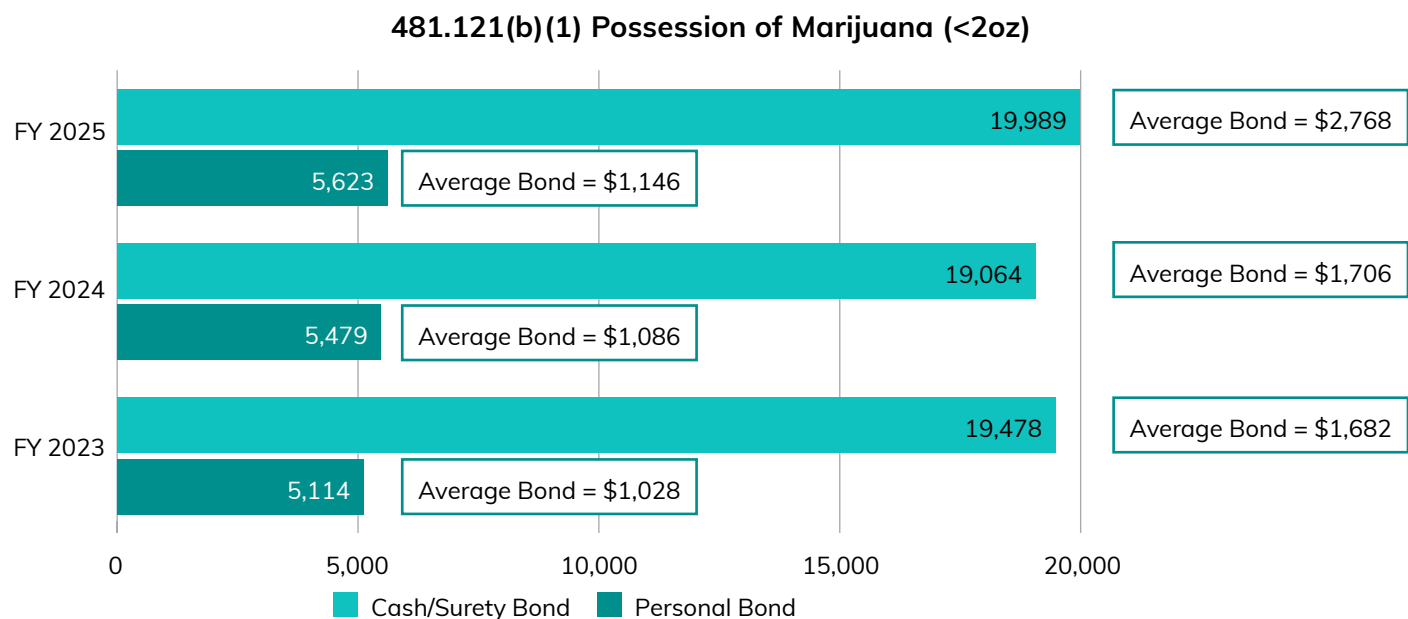


481.115(b) Possession of a Controlled Substance PG1/1B <1G



30.05(d)(1) Criminal Trespass





Across all five of the most frequently reported offenses, data reflects gradual shifts in both bond usage and average bond amounts. Personal bond releases remain relatively consistent across offenses and fiscal years, while cash/surety bond amounts show measured declines or modest recalibration depending on the offense category.

PSRS User Base and Engagement

As of FY 2025, there are 7,355 active users representing all 254 Texas counties. These users span over 3,859 distinct jurisdictions or agency locations, reflecting the broad range of local entities involved in pretrial processing.

To reinforce PSRS user proficiency in FY 2025, OCA hosted twelve monthly webinars open to all PSRS users. Recordings of topic specific presentations are available online for later review, reference, and onboarding of new staff. Webinar schedules and topic lists remain easily accessible at txcourts.gov/bail.

In preparation for the September 2025 effective date of Senate Bill 9 (89th Legislature, Regular Session), OCA issued a comprehensive guidance document, [Senate Bill 9 Guidance](#), developed and updated an ongoing [Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource, and delivered numerous presentations at conferences and stakeholder meetings. These efforts combined with frequent webinars and direct support, provided judges, court staff, and system users across the state with adequate resources to start preparing their jurisdiction for implementation beginning September 1, 2025.

Beyond training and outreach, OCA provided direct assistance through its dedicated Bail@txcourts.gov mailbox. In FY 2025, the bail team responded to more than 1,300 inquiries that were sent to this inbox. This was in addition to email support requests sent directly to OCA staff. While many of these requests involved system related issues such as user permissions, jurisdictional specific support, and functionality concerns. Each inquiry was answered or triaged to the appropriate staff or system vendor to ensure timely resolution and minimize disruptions for users statewide.

In addition to basic onboarding and PSRS training, all users must also comply with federal and state laws governing security awareness in viewing, handling, and dissemination of criminal history information. All users must successfully complete the Department of Public Safety CJIS training. Based on job title and/or duties determines additional training required by state or federal law.

Course	Initial Training	Continuing Education
Judicial Specific	8-hour training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be completed no later than 90th day of taking the bench 	2-hour continuing education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every fiscal biennium
Accessing Criminal Justice Data	Department of Public Safety self-paced, online course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must successfully complete prior to accessing criminal history information 	Recertification every two years
Criminal Justice Practitioner	Department of Public Safety 2-hour online course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows user to view and access criminal history, but cannot query a criminal history through DPS or the PSRS 	Recertification every two years
	-OR-	
DPS 8-hour Mobile Training	Department of Public Safety 2-hour online course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows user to view and query criminal history information 	Recertification every two years

PSRS Enhancements

Together, OCA and Catalis launched eight enhancements in FY 2025 that were released to improve system functionality and make data entry and reporting more efficient for users and stakeholders. To ensure transparency and usability, Catalis issues release notes for all updates which generally include a recorded demonstrations or screen shots to guide users. Release notes and other PSRS resources are available within their online document repository ([PSRS Help Center](#)). OCA further supports knowledge sharing with monthly webinars that highlight any new or upcoming enhancements and provide a forum for training and discussion.

System Enhancements FY2025	Month/Year
Query Builder for Data Reporting	Dec-24
Query Role Permissions	Dec-24
New PSR PDF Summary Text	Feb-25
Offense Count no longer Required	Feb-25
New Criminal History Search Status	Feb-25
Edit Cause/Case Numbers	Feb-25
New Column showing Bail Form Modified	Feb-25

Charitable Bail

The Damon Allen Act requires charitable bail organizations to submit a report to the sheriff of the county in which the organization posted an individual's bail. The sheriff in turn provides the report to OCA. During FY 2025, two jurisdictions reported a total of seven individuals whose bail was posted by a charitable bail organization. Senate Bill 9 provides additional clarification and expands the reporting requirements for these organizations, effective September 1, 2025.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, OCA's priorities in the upcoming fiscal year will center on supporting the statewide implementation of Senate Bill 9. OCA will provide stakeholders with guidance, training and support necessary to ensure successful adoption of the new requirements. The OCA will also ensure the system is prepared to capture and report required data for the staggered effective dates written into the bill.

PSRS Specific Updates Outlined in Senate Bill 9

September 2025

- Bail form certification must be completed in 48-hours;
- Judges must document the basis for a No Probable Cause Finding within 24-hours;
- Certain offenses are restricted from personal bond;
- The criminal history within the PSRS system must remain for 30 days to allow modification or to foster the appeal process;
- Prosecutors may appeal a bail decision;
- Defines decision abilities for judicial officers (specifically for Chapter 54 and 54A Magistrates).

January 2026

- Participation and progress in a Pretrial Intervention program will be reported in the PSRS;
- Prosecutors may access completed Bail Forms;
- Cross-county notifications when a new felony is alleged to have been committed;
- Notification of new arrest to District Attorney if the defendant is on bail for an offense involving violence.

April 2026

- Willful failure to appear dates, outstanding warrants, protective orders, status of community supervision, parole or mandatory supervision will be reported in the PSRS.



