

FBI May Lose Its Job of Keeping Score on Crime

Washington

The Justice Department wants to take the job of collecting national crime statistics from the FBI and give it to a centralized new office under the attorney general.

The department is preparing a legislative proposal that is certain to cause controversy because of its provision relieving the FBI of control over the Uniform Crime Reports—a statistical device that for

46 years has made the FBI the leading authority on the scope and level of crime in the United States.

Justice Department officials insist that their plan is not aimed at undermining the FBI. Their proposed office, tentatively called the Bureau of Criminal Justice Statistics, also would take over 53 other statistical programs now scattered through the Justice Department and other federal law enforcement agencies.

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