



April 18, 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 58

DIGEST OF RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee to adopt the practice of requiring, to the extent practicable, bills that create new crimes, or increase the penalties for existing crimes, to be reviewed by the Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code, the Interim Study Committee on Courts and the Judiciary, or another appropriate interim study committee.

Bray

April 12, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.
April 17, 2017, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SENATE RESOLUTION No. 58

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Senate Judiciary
2 Committee, the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, the
3 House Judiciary Committee, and the House Courts and Criminal Code
4 Committee to adopt the practice of requiring, to the extent practicable,
5 bills that create new crimes, or increase penalties for existing crimes,
6 to be reviewed by the Interim Study Committee on Corrections and
7 Criminal Code, the Interim Study Committee on Courts and the
8 Judiciary, or another appropriate interim study committee.

9 *Whereas, In 2014 the General Assembly adopted House*
10 *Bill 1006, which was the culmination of a five year study to*
11 *make Indiana's Criminal Code consistent, proportional, and*
12 *effective;*

13 *Whereas, The House and Senate criminal committees have*
14 *the responsibility to review bills that create new crimes or*
15 *increase criminal penalties, and to recommend passage of*
16 *those bills that are needed to address imperfections and gaps*
17 *in the criminal justice system, while ensuring that Indiana's*
18 *Criminal Code overall remains consistent, proportional, and*
19 *effective;*

20 *Whereas, In the three years since House Bill 1006 was*
21 *adopted, a total of 278 bills have been introduced that would*
22 *create new crimes or increase penalties for existing crimes;*

23 *Whereas, With over 90 bills to increase penalties or create*
24 *new crimes having been introduced in each of the three years*
25 *since the passage of House Bill 1006, it has become*

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1 *extremely difficult for the House and Senate criminal*
2 *committees in the three or six committee meetings allotted*
3 *each year for all bills assigned to the committees to consider*
4 *the necessity and appropriateness of each bill, and ensure*
5 *that Indiana's Criminal Code overall remains consistent,*
6 *proportional, and effective;*

7 *Whereas, For at least the past 25 years, the practice in the*
8 *General Assembly has been to require requests for new*
9 *courts and new judicial officers to be reviewed by the*
10 *summer courts committee before they are heard in a standing*
11 *committee to ensure that judicial resources are*
12 *appropriately, effectively, and consistently deployed across*
13 *the state; and*

14 *Whereas, The chairs of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the*
15 *Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, the House*
16 *Judiciary Committee, and the House Courts and Criminal*
17 *Code Committee jointly believe that a similar practice would*
18 *allow criminal bills to receive more careful consideration*
19 *than that which is possible during the legislative session,*
20 *while ensuring that Indiana's Criminal Code overall remains*
21 *consistent, proportional, and effective: Therefore,*

22 *Be it resolved by the Senate*
23 *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

24 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate urges the Senate Judiciary
25 Committee, the Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee, the
26 House Judiciary Committee, and the House Courts and Criminal Code
27 Committee to adopt the practice of requiring, to the extent practicable,
28 bills that create new crimes, or increase penalties for existing crimes,
29 to be reviewed by the Interim Study Committee on Corrections and
30 Criminal Code, the Interim Study Committee on Courts and the
31 Judiciary, or another appropriate interim study committee.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate Resolution No. 58, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said resolution DO PASS.

(Reference is to SR 58 as introduced.)

BRAY, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 9, Nays 1

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