1	H.12
2	SHORT FORM
3	Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Burditt of West
4	Rutland, and Christie of Hartford
5	Referred to Committee on
6	Date:
7	Subject: Judiciary; Criminal Division; case backlog
8	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
9	court to dismiss certain types of cases in order to address the substantial docket
10	backlog in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court. The bill would permit
11	the court to dismiss:
12	(1) nonviolent misdemeanor cases if the defendant has not violated the
13	defendant's conditions of release for a period of time equivalent to the
14	maximum sentence imposed for the underlying crime; and
15	(2) fine-only misdemeanor cases if more than one year has elapsed since
16	the defendant was arraigned.
17	The court's authority to dismiss these cases would apply retroactively to
18	cases already filed, thereby permitting the court to:
19	(1) reduce the existing backlog in the criminal docket and free up
20	resources for more serious cases;

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1	(2) improve public safety by permitting the court to focus on the most
2	dangerous criminal matters; and
3	(3) reduce delays that impede the administration of justice for all
4	persons involved in and affected by the criminal justice system.

5 6	An act relating to reducing the case backlog in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court
7	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
8	(TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)