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H.12

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Burditt of West
Rutland, and Christie of Hartford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Judiciary; Criminal Division; case backlog

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the court to dismiss certain types of cases in order to address the substantial docket backlog in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court. The bill would permit the court to dismiss:

(1) nonviolent misdemeanor cases if the defendant has not violated the defendant's conditions of release for a period of time equivalent to the maximum sentence imposed for the underlying crime; and

(2) fine-only misdemeanor cases if more than one year has elapsed since the defendant was arraigned.

The court's authority to dismiss these cases would apply retroactively to cases already filed, thereby permitting the court to:

(1) reduce the existing backlog in the criminal docket and free up resources for more serious cases;

