

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-089

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY STUDY CERTAIN
4 STATUTES CONCERNING WITNESS INTIMIDATION, BRIBERY, AND TAMPERING
5 AND POTENTIAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LEGISLATION THAT
6 WOULD ENHANCE THE PROTECTION OFFERED TO WITNESSES, JURORS, AND
7 INFORMANTS AND THE ABILITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ENFORCE CERTAIN
8 STATUTES WHEN NECESSARY.

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10 WHEREAS, public safety should be the top priority of the state; and

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12 WHEREAS, the state's goal should be to be the safest state in the
13 nation; and

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15 WHEREAS, violent crime in our capital city has been on the rise; and

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17 WHEREAS, a number of proposals have recently been suggested to deter
18 and combat violent crime in certain high-crime areas of the state; and

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20 WHEREAS, it has been proposed that the following statutes concerning
21 witness intimidation, tampering, and bribery should be revised and more
22 vigorously enforced to protect witnesses and assist law enforcement in
23 pursuing criminals:

- 24 (1) Arkansas Code § 5-53-108, concerning witness bribery;
25 (2) Arkansas Code § 5-53-109, concerning witness intimidation;
26 (3) Arkansas Code § 5-53-110, concerning tampering with an
27 official proceeding or investigation; and
28 (4) Arkansas Code § 5-53-114, concerning juror, witness, and
29 informant intimidation,

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31 NOW THEREFORE,

32 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY OF THE NINETY-FIRST
33 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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35 THAT the Senate Committee on Judiciary study the following statutes and
36 any related policy recommendations regarding legislation that would enhance

1 the protection offered by the law and the ability of law enforcement to
2 enforce the statutes when necessary:

- 3 (1) Arkansas Code § 5-54-108;
- 4 (2) Arkansas Code § 5-53-109;
- 5 (3) Arkansas Code § 5-53-110; and
- 6 (4) Arkansas Code § 5-53-114.

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8 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the House Committee on Judiciary be invited
9 to participate in the study.

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11 Respectfully submitted,

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15 Senator Will Bond
16 District 32

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19 Senator David J. Sanders
20 District 15

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23 Senator Joyce Elliott
24 District 31

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27 Representative Clarke Tucker
28 District 35

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31 Representative Warwick Sabin
32 District 33

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35 Representative Andy Davis
36 District 31

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Representative Charles Blake
District 36

By: BPG/BPG