Revised 08/30/07

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-189 2 3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE & SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON 4 STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STUDY THE IMPACT OF 5 LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ON VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES. 6 7 WHEREAS, immigration and the corresponding risk of illegal 8 immigration is a tremendous challenge facing the United States; and 9 10 WHEREAS, illegal immigration poses a security risk to this 11 country and also threatens its economic well being; and 12 13 WHEREAS, Arkansas's immigrant population is on the rise and illegal immigration has proven to be a particularly large problem in 14 15 the state; and 16 17 WHEREAS, illegal immigration imposes a burden on state agencies 18 charged with providing benefits and services to residents of this 19 state, which could hamper those agencies' efforts to provide needed 20 benefits to lawful citizens, including legal immigrants; and 21 22 WHEREAS, the General Assembly plays a key role in protecting the 23 welfare of citizens of this state and legislative action to minimize 24 illegal immigration and its harmful effects should be considered as a 25 means of protecting all Arkansans; and 26 27 WHEREAS, before considering legislative measures to address 28 immigration issues, the General Assembly should study the impact of 29 immigration on the state to determine how best to proceed, including 30 without limitation studying the pervasiveness of illegal immigration 31 and how it is impacting the state, 32 33 NOW THEREFORE, 34 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON STATE 35 AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH (86TH) GENERAL 36 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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1 THAT the House and Senate Interim Committees on State Agencies 2 and Governmental Affairs study the impact of immigration on various 3 areas governed by state agencies, including without limitation the 4 impact of legal and illegal immigration on health care, education, and 5 the state's prison system. 6 7 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED that the committee request the assistance 8 of those state agencies best suited to offer their opinions on this 9 issue, including without limitation the Department of Health, the 10 Department of Education, the Department of Correction, the Department 11 of Finance and Administration, and the Arkansas Insurance Department. 12 13 Respectfully submitted, 14 15 16 Representative Rick Green Senator Ruth Whitaker 17 District 66 District 3 18 19 20 Representative Jon Woods Senator Bobby Glover 21 District 93 District 28 22 23 24 Representative Shirley Walters Senator Terry Smith 25 District 62 District 19 26 27 28 Representative Nathan George Representative Mark Martin 29 District 61 District 87 30 31 32 Representative Eddie Hawkins Representative Billy Gaskill 33 District 47 District 78 34 35 36 Filed 07/12/2007 MBM:1cw