

HOUSE BILL NO. 58

INTRODUCED BY K. DUDIK

BY REQUEST OF THE TASK FORCE ON STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER OPERATIONS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR A STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER AND ATTORNEY WORKLOADS; REQUIRING THE STUDY TO BE PERFORMED BY AN INDEPENDENT ACCREDITED THIRD PARTY; SETTING PARAMETERS OF THE STUDY; REQUIRING REPORTING OF THE STUDY'S FINDINGS TO THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation.** In the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, there is appropriated up to \$150,000 from the general fund to the department of administration for the office of the state public defender to provide funding for a study of the office of state public defender to be performed by an independent accredited third party as set forth in [section 2].

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Scope of study -- report.** (1) As a part of the study authorized in [section 1], an independent accredited third party shall examine workloads and workload standards for all levels within the office of state public defender and shall report its findings as provided in subsection (3).

(2) The independent accredited third party shall examine the case weighting system in the office of state public defender and assist the office in developing a more accurate case weighting system.

(3) The report must be made available publicly in an electronic format and must be presented by the office of state public defender to the law and justice interim committee by May 15, 2018.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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