

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6402**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 95

**NOTE PREPARED:** Mar 18, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:** Mar 17, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Sentencing Policy Study Committee.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Long

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Messer

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2<sup>nd</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill reestablishes the Sentencing Policy Study Committee to evaluate sentencing laws and policies for an additional two years. The bill adds two additional Senators and two additional Representatives to the Committee.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill creates a 19-member Sentencing Policy Study Committee consisting of 8 legislators and 11 lay members with staff support provided by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. The Committee will provide a final report by November 1, 2006. The members of the Committee receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to individuals who serve on interim study committees, and all funds necessary to carry out the bill are paid from appropriations to the Legislative Council and Legislative Services Agency. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$15,000 per interim for committees with 16 members or more. Legislative Council and Legislative Services Agency are funded with state General Fund dollars.

The Committee would be assigned to do the following:

- Evaluate the existing classification of criminal offenses into felony and misdemeanor categories.
- Recommend structures to be used by a sentencing court in determining the most appropriate sentence to be imposed in a criminal case, including any combination of imprisonment, probation, restitution, community service, or house arrest.
- Determine the long-range needs of the criminal justice and corrections systems and recommend policy

- priorities for those systems.
- Review community corrections and home detention programs in standardizing procedures and establishing rules for home detention and the supervision of home detainees by community corrections programs of adjoining counties.
  - Identify critical problems in the criminal justice and corrections systems and recommend strategies to solve the problems.
  - Assess the cost effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the criminal justice and corrections systems.
  - Recommend a comprehensive community corrections strategy.
  - Evaluate the use of faith-based organizations as an alternative to incarceration.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Sarah Brooks, 317-232-9559.