

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY FORD

A Concurrent Resolution requesting the establishment of a legislative interim study committee to review penalties and sentencing practices for criminal offenses related to cocaine, derivatives of cocaine, and substances containing a cocaine base such as crack cocaine.

WHEREAS, the possession, manufacturing, and distribution of cocaine, derivatives of cocaine, and substances containing a cocaine base are a significant problem in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists disparities in criminal penalties in the Iowa Code for possession, manufacturing, and distribution of cocaine, derivatives of cocaine, and substances containing a cocaine base; and

WHEREAS, the disparities in criminal penalties may lead to disparities in the prosecution and sentencing of offenders who have essentially committed the same crime; and

WHEREAS, the criminal penalties and sentencing practices for possession, manufacturing, and distribution of cocaine, derivatives of cocaine, and substances containing a cocaine base, are in need of review; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the legislative council is requested to establish a legislative study committee during the 2001 interim to review disparities in

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1 criminal penalties and sentencing practices for
2 possession, manufacturing, and distribution of
3 cocaine, derivatives of cocaine, and substances
4 containing a cocaine base. In addition to legislators
5 and a member from a racial minority group, membership
6 on the committee should include but is not limited to
7 representatives of the following: county attorneys,
8 judicial branch, local law enforcement, department of
9 corrections, board of parole, a community organization
10 committed to serve exoffenders, and a person who has
11 been convicted of a criminal offense involving
12 possession, manufacturing, or distribution of cocaine,
13 a derivative of cocaine, or a substance containing a
14 cocaine base.

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