



Journal of the House

State of Indiana

122nd General Assembly

Second Regular Session

Sixth Day

Wednesday Afternoon

January 12, 2022

The invocation was offered by Brother Timothy Heim of the Shelby Christian Church in Holton, a guest of Representative Frye..

The House convened at 1:30 p.m. with Speaker Todd M. Huston in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Representative Olthoff.

The Speaker ordered the roll of the House to be called:

Abbott	Karickhoff
Andrade	King
Austin	Klinker
Aylesworth	Lauer
Baird <input type="checkbox"/>	Ledbetter
Barrett	Lehe
Bartels	Lehman
Bartlett	Leonard
Bauer, M	Lindauer
Behning	Lucas
Borders	Lyness
Boy	Manning
Brown, T.	May
Campbell	Mayfield <input type="checkbox"/>
Carbaugh	McNamara
Cherry	Miller
Clere	Moed
Cook <input type="checkbox"/>	Morris
Davis	Morrison
Davisson	Moseley
DeVon	Negele
DeLaney	Nisly
Dvorak <input type="checkbox"/>	O'Brien
Eberhart	Olthoff
Ellington	Pack
Engleman	Payne
Errington	Pfaff
Fleming	Pierce
Frye	Porter
GiaQuinta	Prescott
Goodrich	Pressel
Gore	Pryor
Gutwein <input type="checkbox"/>	Rowray
Hamilton	Saunders <input type="checkbox"/>
Harris	Schaibley
Hatcher	Shackleford
Hatfield	Slager
Heaton	Smaltz
Heine	Smith, V.
Hostettler	Snow
Jackson	Soliday
Jacob	Speedy
Jeter	Steuerwald <input type="checkbox"/>
Johnson	Summers
Jordan	Teshka
Judy	Thompson

Torr
VanNatter
Vermilion
Wesco

J. Young
Zent
Ziemke
Mr. Speaker

Roll Call 9: 90 present; 10 excused. The Speaker announced a quorum in attendance. [NOTE: indicates those who were excused.]

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that when we do adjourn, we adjourn until Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

LEHMAN

The motion was adopted by a constitutional majority.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform, to which was referred House Bill 1075, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 3, line 42, after "compacts" insert "**that have been fully operational for at least two (2) years**".

Page 7, between lines 26 and 27, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 7. IC 11-12-2-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.86-2017, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022]: Sec. 2. (a) To qualify for financial aid under this chapter, a county must establish a community corrections advisory board by resolution of the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council. A community corrections advisory board **must, at a minimum, consists consist of:**

- (1) the county sheriff or the sheriff's designee;
- (2) the prosecuting attorney or the prosecuting attorney's designee;
- (3) the executive of the most populous municipality in the county or the executive's designee;
- (4) two (2) judges having criminal jurisdiction, if available, appointed by the circuit court judge or the judges' designees;
- (5) ~~one (1) judge having juvenile jurisdiction, appointed by the circuit court judge;~~
- (6) (5) one (1) public defender or the public defender's designee, if available, or one (1) attorney with a substantial criminal defense practice appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;
- (7) ~~one (1) victim, or victim advocate if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;~~
- (8) ~~one (1) ex-offender, if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council;~~
- (9) (6) the director of the local office of the department of child services or the director's designee; **and**

~~(10)~~ a representative from a juvenile correctional facility or juvenile detention center in the county; but if no facility exists, one ~~(1)~~ mental health representative chosen by the judge described in subdivision ~~(5)~~;

~~(11)~~ a representative from the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative; but if no program exists, a representative from the court appointed special advocate program in the county or guardian ad litem program in the county; and

~~(12)~~ (7) the following members appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council:

(A) One (1) member of the county fiscal body or the member's designee.

(B) One (1) probation officer.

~~(C)~~ One ~~(1)~~ juvenile probation officer.

~~(D)~~ One ~~(1)~~ educational administrator.

~~(E)~~ One ~~(1)~~ representative of a private correctional agency; if such an agency exists in the county.

~~(F)~~ (C) One (1) mental health administrator. or; if there is none available in the county, one ~~(1)~~ psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician.

(G) Four ~~(4)~~ lay persons; at least one ~~(1)~~ of whom must be a member of a minority race if a racial minority resides in the county and a member of that minority is willing to serve.

(b) In addition to the members of the community corrections advisory board appointed under subsection (a), a county by resolution of the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council may appoint the following to the advisory board:

(1) One (1) judge having juvenile jurisdiction, appointed by the circuit court judge or the juvenile court judge's designee.

(2) One (1) victim, or victim advocate if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council.

(3) One (1) ex-offender, if available, appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council.

(4) A representative from a juvenile correctional facility or juvenile detention center in the county, but if no facility exists, one (1) mental health representative chosen by the judge described in subdivision (1).

(5) A representative from the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, but if no program exists, a representative from the court appointed special advocate program in the county or guardian ad litem program in the county.

(6) The following members appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council:

(A) One (1) juvenile probation officer.

(B) One (1) educational administrator.

(C) One (1) representative of a private correctional agency, if such an agency exists in the county.

(D) Four (4) lay persons, at least one (1) of whom must be a member of a minority race if a racial minority resides in the county and a member of that minority is willing to serve.

~~(c)~~ **(c)** Designees of officials designated under ~~subsection~~ **subsections (a)(1) through (a)(6), ~~(a)(9), (a)(7)(A), and ~~(a)(12)(A)~~ (b)(1)~~ serve at the pleasure of the designating official.**

~~(d)~~ **(d)** Members of the advisory board appointed by the county executive or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council, shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. The criminal defense attorney, the ex-offender, and the victim or victim advocate shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. Other members serve only while holding the office or

position held at the time of appointment. The circuit court judge may fill the position of the judge having juvenile court jurisdiction by self appointment if the circuit court judge is otherwise qualified. A vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of office shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments for the unexpired term. Members may be reappointed.

~~(e)~~ **(e)** Two (2) or more counties, by resolution of their county executives or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council, may combine to apply for financial aid under this chapter. If counties so combine, the counties may establish one (1) community corrections advisory board to serve these counties. This board must contain the representation prescribed in subsection (a), but the members may come from the participating counties as determined by agreement of the county executives or, in a county having a consolidated city, by the city-county council.

~~(f)~~ **(f)** The members of the community corrections advisory board shall, within thirty (30) days after the last initial appointment is made, meet and elect one (1) member as chairman and another as vice chairman and appoint a secretary-treasurer who need not be a member. A majority of the members of a community corrections advisory board may provide for a number of members that is:

(1) less than a majority of the members; and

(2) at least six (6);

to constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting business. The affirmative votes of at least five (5) members, but not less than a majority of the members present, are required for the board to take action. A vacancy in the membership does not impair the right of a quorum to transact business.

~~(g)~~ **(g)** The county executive and county fiscal body shall provide necessary assistance and appropriations to the community corrections advisory board established for that county. Appropriations required under this subsection are limited to amounts received from the following sources:

(1) Department grants.

(2) User fees.

(3) Other funds as contained within an approved plan.

Additional funds may be appropriated as determined by the county executive and county fiscal body."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to HB 1075 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 0.

MILLER , Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform, to which was referred House Bill 1100, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 2, line 4, delete "legislative council" and insert "**general assembly**".

Page 2, line 6, delete "proclamation." and insert "**proclamation through adoption of a concurrent resolution.**".

Page 2, line 18, delete "legislative council" and insert "**general assembly**".

Page 2, line 20, delete "proclamation." and insert "**proclamation through adoption of a concurrent resolution.**".

Page 2, line 23, delete "chair and vice chair of the" and insert "**general assembly**".

Page 2, line 24, delete "legislative council".

Page 2, line 26, delete "a determination of the legislative council" and insert "**the general assembly's adoption of a**

concurrent resolution".

Delete page 3.

Page 4, delete lines 1 through 14.

Page 5, line 34, delete "a change in the agency's" and insert **"the adoption of rules is:**

(A) required to begin or maintain state implementation of a program established under federal law or state statute; or
(B) required by a state statute."

Page 5, delete lines 35 through 36.

Page 11, line 28, delete "In the".

Page 11, delete lines 29 through 30.

Page 11, line 31, delete "this section."

Page 11, line 32, delete "that justifies adoption in" and insert **"The attorney general may return the rule to the agency without disapproving the rule, and the agency may recall and resubmit the rule to the attorney general under the same document number in accordance with section 40 of this chapter."**

Page 11, line 33, delete "accordance with this section."

Page 11, line 33, delete "neither" and insert **"does not approve"**.

Page 11, line 34, delete "approves nor disapproves".

Page 11, line 34, after "rule" insert **"for legality and form"**.

Page 11, line 34, delete "forty-sixth day" and insert **"thirty-first day"**.

Page 11, line 36, delete "without the approval of the attorney" and insert ".".

Page 11, delete lines 37 through 41.

Page 11, line 42, after "deemed approved" insert **"for legality and form"**.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to HB 1100 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 8, nays 2.

MILLER, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform, to which was referred House Bill 1157, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 6, line 29, delete "A township trustee who".

Page 6, delete lines 30 through 32.

(Reference is to HB 1157 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 11, nays 0.

MILLER D, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform, to which was referred House Bill 1211, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1211 as introduced.)

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0.

MILLER D, Chair

Report adopted.

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING**House Resolution 3**

Representatives V. Smith, Shackelford, Bartlett, Harris, Hatcher, Jackson, Pack, Porter, Pryor, Summers and Nisly introduced House Resolution 3:

A HOUSE RESOLUTION commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of our nation's truly great leaders;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. changed our nation forever through his leadership, service, and clarity of vision;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had many dreams: of an America where "justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream"; where neighbors look "beyond the external accidents and discern those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers"; and of a time when "this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'";

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamt of a better society where "the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood";

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that liberty, justice, and freedom were the "inalienable rights" to which all men, women, and children are entitled;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a spiritual man who believed that all people are created equal in the sight of God and in the dignity and self-worth of every individual;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his life defending his beliefs;

Whereas, The visions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continue to bring hope and inspiration to people of all nations;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a national hero whose birthday is celebrated as a day of peace, love, and understanding by a grateful nation in the form of a national holiday, as well as a state holiday in Indiana; and

Whereas, All Americans must continue to gather inspiration from the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and strive to realize his dreams: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That it is fitting and proper that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. be remembered and recognized by future generations of Americans and that all citizens of Indiana honor Dr. King by living out his teachings as we continue to work toward a day when the dignity and humanity of every person are respected.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The resolution was read a first time and adopted by voice vote.

House Concurrent Resolution 9

Representative Campbell introduced House Concurrent Resolution 9:

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the general assembly to enact legislation for screening for cytomegalovirus (CMV) in all newborns.

Whereas, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found:

CMV is the most common infectious cause of birth defects in the United States;

Nearly one in three children are already infected with CMV by five years of age;

About one out of every two hundred infants is born with congenital CMV;

About one in five babies born with congenital CMV will suffer long term health problems, such as hearing loss, vision loss, intellectual disability, microcephaly, lack of coordination or weakness, or seizures; and

Fifteen percent of babies with congenital CMV will not have symptoms at birth but will later develop hearing loss;

Whereas, In 2011, the United States Congress passed a resolution designating June as National Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month, thus illustrating the importance of raising awareness of CMV;

Whereas, Antiviral medications may improve hearing and developmental outcomes in babies with congenital CMV; and

Whereas, Diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of children with congenital CMV can help improve their health outcomes: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the Senate concurring:

SECTION 1. That the general assembly is urged to enact legislation for CMV screening in all newborns.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the office of State Representative Chris Campbell for distribution.

The resolution was read a first time and referred to the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures.

HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

House Bill 1094

Representative Teshka called down House Bill 1094 for second reading. The bill was read a second time by title. There being no amendments, the bill was ordered engrossed.

House Bill 1147

Representative Lehe called down House Bill 1147 for second reading. The bill was read a second time by title. There being no amendments, the bill was ordered engrossed.

OTHER BUSINESS ON THE SPEAKER’S TABLE

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Judy be added as coauthor of House Bill 1002.

T. BROWN

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representatives Olthoff and Slager be added as coauthors of House Bill 1011.

AYLESWORTH

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Vermilion be added as coauthor of House Bill 1024.

SAUNDERS

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Boy be added as coauthor of House Bill 1025.

AYLESWORTH

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Vermilion be added as coauthor of House Bill 1046.

HEINE

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representatives Torr, Saunders and Errington be added as coauthors of House Bill 1053.

SCHAIBLEY

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Frye be added as coauthor of House Bill 1073.

ENGLEMAN

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Olthoff be added as coauthor of House Bill 1081.

MCNAMARA

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Hamilton be added as coauthor of House Bill 1090.

OLTHOFF

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Engleman be added as coauthor of House Bill 1091.

OLTHOFF

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Judy be added as coauthor of House Bill 1112.

SLAGER

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Payne be added as coauthor of House Bill 1114.

LUCAS

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Morris be added as coauthor of House Bill 1122.

SPEEDY

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Thompson be added as coauthor of House Bill 1126.

BEHNING

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representatives Clere and Ziemke be added as coauthors to House Bill 1141.

VERMILION

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Payne be added as coauthor of House Bill 1170.

SAUNDERS

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representatives Cook, Goodrich and Clere be added as coauthors of House Bill 1180.

DEVON

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Payne be added as coauthor of House Bill 1196.

SPEEDY

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Manning be added as coauthor of House Bill 1209.

SOLIDAY

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Schaibley be added as coauthor of House Bill 1210.

LAUER

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representatives Negele and Hamilton be added as coauthors of House Bill 1221.

SOLIDAY

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representative Olthoff be added as coauthor of House Bill 1222.

ZIEMKE

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representatives Clere and Goodrich be added as coauthors of House Bill 1252.

BEHNING

Motion prevailed.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that Representatives Heine, Morris and Gia Quinta be added as coauthors of House Bill 1286.

CARBAUGH

Motion prevailed.

The House recessed until the fall of the gavel.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:25 p.m. with the Speaker in the Chair.

JOINT CONVENTION

The Speaker introduced Governor Eric Holcomb, Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor, and House Minority Leader Philip GiaQuinta. Elected State office holders; Attorney General, Todd Rokita, Secretary of State, Holli Sullivan, State Treasurer, Kelly Mitchell and State Auditor, Tera Klutz., and the honored guests as followed: The family of current Supreme Court Justices: Jim Rush, husband of Chief Justice Rush, Helene Bishop, sister of Chief Justice Rush; Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Brent Dickson; Indiana Judges Association President Darrin Dolehanty and Chief Administrative Officer Justin Forkner. Court of Appeals guests include Chief Judge Cal Bradford, Edward Jajam, L. Mark Bailey, Melissa May, Margret Robb, Elaine Brown, Rudy Pyle, Robert Altice, Elizabeth Tavitas, Leanna Weissmann and Derek Molter.

The Speaker yielded the gavel to Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, President of the Senate, who convened the Joint Session and presented the Chief Justice as follows:

Members of the Joint Assembly: Pursuant to Section 3 of Article 7 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, this joint session of the two houses of the Indiana General Assembly is now convened for the purpose of hearing a message from the Chief Justice of Indiana. It is my privilege to present to you the Distinguished Chief Justice of Indiana, the Honorable Loretta Rush.

Chief Justice Rush was escorted to the rostrum by Senators Glick, L. Brown, Randolph and Lanane and Representatives McNamara, Torr, Hatcher and Pierce.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

Welcome to the State of the Judiciary. It's always a privilege to address you in this magnificent chamber. We are one of the few states in the country where all three branches of government are housed in one building. While each of our branches has independent obligations, our proximity to each other cultivates opportunities to work together in so many ways for the benefit of every Hoosier.

As Chief Justice of Indiana, it is my constitutional responsibility to report to you the state of Indiana's courts—my eighth such address. And the message I offer today is one of perseverance.

Constitutional Promise

Throughout these last two years, your judiciary has embraced solutions to keep courts operational, resulting in the resolution of two million cases. But success is not measured solely by the number of cases we decide. Why? Because the Indiana Constitution's Open Courts Clause promises every Hoosier a fair, impartial, and accessible justice system. And we are delivering on that constitutional promise.

Yes, your Indiana Supreme Court thoughtfully decides cases—as our Constitution requires. But the Constitution further charges us with critical administrative responsibilities—responsibilities that are vital to the rule of law, because a judge's decision-making is only as good as the legal system in which it takes place.

Across our 92 counties, your dedicated trial court judges confront an increasingly complex array of criminal, business, family, housing, and debt cases. In many ways, courts have become the government emergency room for society's worst afflictions. Substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence, homelessness—the challenges brought to courtrooms each day are the same challenges facing your constituents. And, like you, we are determined to find solutions. We share in the Governor's stated desire to uphold Indiana's reputation as a place Hoosiers want to live, work, play, study, and stay.

Today, I will highlight four critical components of our constitutional responsibilities.

Increasing public trust

We are implementing initiatives to increase confidence in the judiciary. And why is public trust so critical to the judiciary? Because it's the judiciary's currency. As Alexander Hamilton famously pointed out in the Federalist Papers, we have “no influence over either the sword or the purse.” True, but we do have tremendous influence over Hoosiers' trust in government. Every day, thousands of citizens across Indiana enter our courtrooms, where they are guaranteed a fair, impartial, and accessible justice system. So we must operate a justice system that bolsters our

currency.

Strengthening Hoosier families

We are instituting court reforms to better serve vulnerable and endangered children and adults, to better support our veterans, and to better help our families navigate their way through divorce, child custody, or evictions. And, in doing so, we are also addressing the ever-increasing number of Hoosiers entering our courtrooms with substance use disorder and severe mental illness.

Improving public safety We are expanding problem-solving courts and remain committed to working with all justice partners to safely implement pretrial reform.

Modernizing our courts

We are innovating—from recently completing one statewide case management system to increasing the speedy resolution of business disputes. We are committed to leveraging technology to better deliver justice across our state.

These efforts are foundational for fulfilling that constitutional promise of providing a fair, impartial, and accessible justice system for every person, in every Indiana community.

Public Service

When we are all in this room together, it is apparent that we have a tremendous connection, a bond we share because we chose public service. While we took different paths to office, the underlying motivation is the same: to serve the people of our

state. And one of the most deeply committed public servants of our time—one we should all aspire to be—is Justice Steven David.

Justice David will step down from the bench after nearly 30 years as a judicial branch leader and the longest-serving justice currently on the Court. A highly decorated colonel in the United States Army, his service spans 28 years and includes tours of duty in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay.

As a tireless champion of justice, he has selflessly led many of the court reforms that I am going to speak about today. Justice David please come to the podium and provide an update on several of the initiatives.

REMARKS BY JUSTICE STEVEN H. DAVID

Thank you, Chief Justice Rush. We have served as judicial officers together for over 20 years. So thank you for sharing some of your time today with me. For a ninth generation Hoosier who grew up in Ogilville, Indiana, this is a tremendous honor.

OK, the big news—let's talk about the modernization of the courts through technology.

We now have a unified case management system. It's in every county! I'll say it again: one statewide case management system, with public access at mycase.in.gov, with 34 million visits last year. We couldn't have done it without your support, your trust, and your confidence. All Hoosiers now have free, 24-7 access to court information.

And we have our e-filing system that is also in every county; every week about 140,000 electronic filings move through the system—paperless! This saves millions of dollars for all users, including government agencies. By supporting us in this journey, we are a more responsive and transparent judiciary.

Thank you also for your unwavering support for commercial courts, available statewide. 1,300 cases have moved through this sophisticated system that handles challenging business-to-business disputes. It's timely, cost effective, predictable, and fair. Thank you to the Commercial Courts Committee, which has listened to the needs of practitioners, corporate counsel, and judges. A special shout out to Kevin Brinegar of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce as well as your own Senator Eric Koch and Representative Greg Steuerwald.

Indiana is a national leader in specialized courts, often called problem-solving courts. They focus on accountability, but also treatment. Accountability and treatment are not mutually exclusive; together, they are mutually successful!

We have 118 of these specialized dockets statewide and 21 more in the planning process. They include drug, family recovery, domestic violence, mental health, and veterans treatment courts. It has been my honor to witness hundreds of people graduate from these extraordinary programs. They are incredibly time-consuming local initiatives. But as a veteran; the son, grandson, and father of a veteran; and the husband of a Navy officer who has been recalled to active duty—I am truly grateful for your support of these profoundly impactful and life-changing, indeed life-saving, programs.

If you need to feel good about the good you do and the support you have given us in this work, please attend a problem-solving court graduation. You must experience it to really appreciate it. Watch the very police officer and the person they arrested for drug use stand together and hug each other in tears and triumph. Or attend a veterans treatment court graduation where a service member—scarred by the experiences and trauma of service, sacrifice, and conflict—who was once willing to give their life for all of us, now has a new life, thanks to all of you. It just doesn't get any better than that.

Let's talk about public safety, which includes pretrial and criminal justice reform. They allow us to enhance public trust and safeguard constitutional rights. We are working with you and our friends at the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, public defender agencies, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to build a more constitutionally transparent system to protect due process and equal protection rights while maintaining public safety. We envision transformative and lasting change in which we are not holding low-risk people in county jails. We have 12 counties now certified as pretrial service agencies led by the courts and 30 more in the planning stages. Our goal is simple: to make sure that before trial, the right people are in jail for the right reasons. Nothing more complicated than that.

And what about increasing public trust as the Chief Justice referenced? I wear this wrist band that says, "the rule of law always." It is the rule of law and our respect for it that separates us from most of the rest of the world. It makes us the envy of most of the world and the enemy of some of the world. It is precious. It requires constant care and attention. It takes work and commitment to ensure that sacred phrase, "and justice for all!"

We have launched the Commission on Equity and Access in the Court System. Don't be afraid of it; we aren't. It is all about improving our systems. It is our way of doing a friendly audit of our own processes. And we aren't doing it alone. Thank you legislators Travis Holdman, Greg Taylor, Greg Steuerwald, and Ragen Hatcher, along with my Vice-Chairs Norris Cunningham and Deborah Daniels. Will everyone who is serving on the Commission or any of its 8 working groups please stand and accept our thanks?

Let me share just one great example of strengthening families and children. We have nearly 4,000 volunteers trained as Guardians Ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocates serving nearly 22,000 children. With the work of these earth angels, tragedy and sadness can be turned into happiness and hope.

Together we are figuring out how to do better for our citizens, and that is indeed serving the public. I would like to leave all of you with this thought as I turn it back over to the Chief Justice of Indiana.

Public service is all about putting others first; it is giving of your time and talent in ways that may not be fully appreciated until much later. It is about doing what is right every day as best you can because you care about others. And we are glad to be doubling down on our public service efforts—with you—in 2022. Thank you!

Thank you, Justice David. You will be dearly missed, as you leave a legacy of an exceptionally stronger judicial system. So, now let's look to the future and ways in which we will build on that legacy.

Innovation

Our Court tasked some of the biggest thinkers in our profession to provide a long-term blueprint for the court system of tomorrow. Here's just a sampling:

Jail management

To improve public safety, we are working on a centralized jail management system. Your Jail Overcrowding Task Force identified systemic problems with multiple jail management systems: problems that prevent all of us from collecting and analyzing reliable data. You asked for a solution, and we're answering. Our newly created centralized system will improve public safety by ensuring accurate criminal records, allowing judges to view real-time incarceration status, and alerting community agencies when a supervised individual is arrested.

Sharing offender information between jails, courts, community corrections, probation, and all justice partners is vital to public safety and will give you information like you have never had before to guide your policymaking.

Evictions

Indiana has some of the highest eviction rates in the country. To find solutions, we are devoting key resources to help landlords and tenants, including piloting a housing court. Thank you to Judges Robert Altice, Jennifer DeGroote, Kimberly Bacon, and Magistrate Kathleen Belzeski, as well as landlord and tenant representatives, and state leaders working to find equitable solutions through the Eviction Task Force.

Family law

With over 100,000 divorce and paternity cases in our courts, we know that Hoosier families are facing an incredibly tough time—both emotionally and economically. The sooner they go to court and resolve differences, the better. So, we are implementing a pathways program that will tailor the court experience to a family's needs, creating efficiencies in time, scale, and structure. Thank you to Judge Elizabeth Tavitav and the other members of the Family Law Taskforce.

Remote access

We are leveraging smartphones and online access. We already use text messaging for hearing reminders, scheduling, and confirming deadlines. Now we are piloting a mobile court check-in program. And soon, some people may not need to come to court at all: a new online dispute resolution platform will allow court customers to resolve disputes at no cost and on their own time.

Mental Health System

For our final few moments, I want to talk about a remarkable opportunity all of us in this building have to fix a broken mental health system. But if we're going to do it, we must work together.

Last month, I visited Tippecanoe County Circuit Court Judge Sean Persin and heard a familiar story. His court is overwhelmed with serious mental health issues. Here is just a sampling of what he told me. Involuntary mental health commitments have tripled in the last few years. And after being found too mentally ill to stand trial, people are waiting—in jail—twice as long for placement in a state hospital. This tremendous increase in both cases and delays is not limited to one county, it's occurring statewide.

We need to first understand how we got here. Two generations ago, the federal government deinstitutionalized our nation's mental health delivery system. As psychiatric hospitals across the country shuttered their doors, primary responsibility for the care, treatment, and supervision of those with serious mental illness fell largely to local communities—police, jails, and courts. And today, mental illness permeates nearly every type of case that comes before our judges. In fact, the criminal justice system is now a primary referral source for a person to obtain mental health treatment.

Hendricks County Sheriff and recent President of the Indiana Sheriff's Association, Brett Clark, believes "the single greatest challenge facing Indiana Sheriffs is dealing with serious mental illness in the jails." Senator Mike Young and Representative Wendy McNamara recently echoed that sentiment. To their point, up to 80% of our current jail populations have mental illness, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders. Serious mental illness is four-to-six times more prevalent in jail than in the general population.

Police officers are not social workers, and jails are not treatment centers. And when we ask them to be, we compromise their core

function of preserving public safety, which, in turn, puts everyone at risk.

This year, you, the General Assembly, will be tasked with considering how to best implement the national mental health hotline, better known as 988. It's the future of crisis care—a hotline for mental health emergencies where the immediate crisis response is connected to the infrastructure in place.

In anticipation of your important work, the Supreme Court is convening a statewide summit organized by the cross-branch efforts of Justice Christopher Goff, Sheriff Brett Clark, Senator Jack Sandlin, Mental Health Director Jay Chaudhary, and Drug Czar Doug Huntsinger. Thank you.

Teams from all 92 counties, with members of the local JRACs you created, will collaborate with each other and state-level partners to start developing responsible, cost-effective solutions. Please plan on joining your community's team at the October 21, 2022, summit.

Conclusion

At the beginning of this address I told you that today's message is one of perseverance. Last month, during a meeting with dozens of your trial court judges, I was inspired by what I heard. Judge after judge—from counties across the state—reported their resolve to hear difficult cases and handle their dockets

fairly and efficiently. And they complimented Hoosiers for wholeheartedly showing up for and fulfilling their jury duty obligation. Jackson County Judge AmyMarie Travis, for example, recalled asking jurors after a recent trial what the court could do to improve their jury experience. They unanimously reported wanting to come back and serve on another jury.

We need to give thanks to our jurors, but also our clerks, probation officers, staff, attorneys, justice partners, and all our trial court judges, many of whom are here today. We have a spirit of resilience that is allowing us to fulfill our constitutional promises.

And I know you agree with me. A tenacious spirit runs deep in this state. We are proud to stand in service with you for all our fellow Hoosiers.

Thank you and may God continue to bless our great state

Pursuant to House Rule 60, committee meetings were announced.

On the motion of Representative Karickhoff, the House adjourned at 2:59 p.m., this twelfth day of January, 2022, until Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

TODD M. HUSTON

Speaker of the House of Representatives

M. CAROLINE SPOTTS

Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives