

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Recognizes the potential value for local law enforcement agencies of an independent police monitor

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the potential value for local law enforcement agencies of an independent
3 police monitor.

4 WHEREAS, local law enforcement officers, both sheriff's deputies and municipal
5 police officers, are, as they have always been, the essential guardians of the safety of
6 communities; they are the critical barrier between the few who wish to cause harm and the
7 many who wish to go about their daily activities free from fear; and

8 WHEREAS, effective policing requires effective community support; policing is not
9 done in a vacuum; if civilians are to be as safe as possible they must work collaboratively
10 with law enforcement officers and agencies, but if citizens come to perceive law
11 enforcement officers to be as much of a threat to their safety as are criminals, the health of
12 the community deteriorates rapidly; and

13 WHEREAS, though citizens and local elected officials desire to hold sheriff's
14 deputies and municipal police officers to very high standards of integrity and service, many
15 aspects of a law enforcement agency are unique to the law enforcement field, and special
16 expertise is required to evaluate and improve internal practices, procedures, and culture;
17 general management experts and local officials may not be in the best position to determine
18 whether a particular department is fulfilling its duties in a way that meets such high
19 standards; and

20 WHEREAS, an independent police monitor can fill that gap by combining law
21 enforcement expertise with an outside-the-department perspective, thereby playing a role

