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## DIGEST

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Hunter

HB No. 516

**Abstract:** Requires a racial impact statement to be prepared for certain bills, creates a joint committee to prepare such statement, and prohibits passage of certain bills without such statement.

Proposed law provides that any bill that creates a new crime, modifies an existing crime, or modifies the penalty for an existing crime shall carry a racial impact statement. Provides that the racial impact statement shall be prepared by the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties. Requires the racial impact statement to include an estimate of the number of criminal cases per year that the bill will affect, the impact of the bill on members of racial minority groups, the effect of the bill on the operations of correctional institutions, and any other matter the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties considers appropriate. Requires the committee, in preparing the racial impact statement, to issue a finding as to whether the bill has a disparate impact on members of racial minority groups. Provides that the racial impact statement shall be printed as an appendix to the bill and shall be distributed in the same manner as amendments.

Proposed law provides that if the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties finds that a bill will have a disparate impact on members of racial minority groups, the author of the bill shall do either of the following:

- (1) Offer an amendment to the bill to reduce the disparate impact of the bill on members of racial minority groups. If the author offers such an amendment, the author shall identify in writing how the amendment would reduce the disparate impact of the bill on members of racial minority groups. The written document shall be distributed in the same manner as amendments.
- (2) Provide in writing the author's reasons for advancing the bill without amendment despite the disparate impact of the bill on members of racial minority groups. The written document shall be printed as an appendix to the bill and shall be distributed in the same manner as amendments.

Proposed law provides that no house of the legislature may vote to finally pass a bill that creates a new crime, modifies an existing crime, or modifies the penalty for an existing crime without a racial impact statement prepared pursuant to proposed law and, if applicable, without an action of the author of the bill pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law creates the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties. Provides for the

membership of the committee and relative to its duties and authority.

Provides that the initial appointments to the committee shall be made no later than Nov. 1, 2014.

Provides that the initial meeting of the committee shall be called jointly by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate.

(Adds R.S. 24:851 and 852)