

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6138

C 31 L 92

SYNOPSIS AS ENACTED

Brief Description: Deleting obsolete references regarding district courts.

SPONSORS: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Nelson, A. Smith, Erwin and Madsen)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BACKGROUND:

Judges are able to put a person in jail based on a belief that the person has made threats against the property or person of another and might in fact commit a crime. The person can avoid going to jail by posting a peace bond as security. If the person fails to post the peace bond, he or she can be held in jail for a period of up to one year. There is concern that this process is unconstitutional.

SUMMARY:

District court judges do not have the authority to send a person to jail or require a person to post a peace bond on the basis of the judges' belief that the person might commit a crime.

The weighted caseload system is the method by which the number of district court judges is determined for each county.

VOTES ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Senate	46	0
House	96	0

EFFECTIVE: March 20, 1992