
Community Safety Committee

HB 1484

Brief Description: Concerning exceptional sentences for offenses which result in the pregnancy of a victim of rape.

Sponsors: Representatives Salahuddin, Davis, Duerr, Doglio, Ryu, Reed and Parshley.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Modifies the statutory list of aggravating circumstances that may support imposition of an exceptional sentence above the standard range to include offenses that result in the pregnancy of a victim of rape, regardless of the victim's age.

Hearing Date: 2/3/25

Staff: Corey Patton (786-7388).

Background:

For most felony offenses, the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) provides a standard sentence range according to a sentencing grid, which is based on the seriousness level of the offense and the convicted person's offender score. The seriousness level is a designation of the offense's severity, while the offender score is a point calculation based on the convicted person's criminal history.

Under certain circumstances, the court may impose an exceptional sentence outside the standard range. The court must make written findings that a substantial and compelling reason justifies an exceptional sentence. An exceptional sentence may be below the standard range if mitigating circumstances are established by a preponderance of the evidence, or above the standard range in specified situations. The SRA provides an exhaustive list of aggravating circumstances that, if

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proven beyond a reasonable doubt, may support an exceptional sentence above the standard range. One such aggravating circumstance recognized under the SRA is where the offense resulted in the pregnancy of a child victim of rape.

Summary of Bill:

The statutory list of aggravating circumstances that may support imposition of an exceptional sentence above the standard range is modified to include offenses that result in the pregnancy of a victim of rape, regardless of the victim's age.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 28, 2025.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.