

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54**

(By Delegates C. Miller, Perdue, Miley, Sobonya, Ellem,  
J. Miller, Fleischauer and Border)

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6 Requesting the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to study the  
7 feasibility and potential effectiveness of justice  
8 reinvestment strategies as a mechanism to better direct our  
9 expenditures in criminal justice to help prevent crimes, not  
10 merely to punish them.

11 WHEREAS, Rising corrections budgets and high recidivism rates  
12 in many states are forcing policymakers to develop new strategies  
13 for increasing public safety; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite increasing corrections expenditures,  
15 recidivism rates remain high with half of all persons released from  
16 prison nationally returning within three years; and

17 WHEREAS, The notion of justice reinvestment is to advance  
18 fiscally-sound, data driven criminal justice policies to break the  
19 cycle of recidivism, avert prison expenditures and make communities  
20 safer; and

21 WHEREAS, Justice reinvestment aids in generating various  
22 options that recognize the unique problems in our criminal justice  
23 system and tailors these to better manage the growth of a state's  
24 prison population and increase public safety; and

25 WHEREAS, These options include strategies to reduce parole and

1 probation revocations; focus supervision resources where they can  
2 have the greatest impact; and hold offenders (and service  
3 providers) accountable for the successful completion of programs  
4 such as drug treatment and job training; and

5       WHEREAS, Policymakers can use generated data to develop plans  
6 for reinvesting a portion of these savings in new or enhanced  
7 initiatives in areas where the majority of people released from  
8 prisons and jails return to benefit everyone in the community,  
9 regardless of their involvement in the criminal justice system; and

10       WHEREAS, Of the corrections system, improve the accountability  
11 designing policies to manage the growth and integration of  
12 resources concentrated in particular communities, and reinvesting  
13 a portion of the savings generated from these efforts to make  
14 communities receiving the majority of people released from prison  
15 safer, stronger and healthier is a sound topic of study; therefore,  
16 be it

17       *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

18       That the Joint Committee on the Judiciary is hereby requested  
19 to study the feasibility and potential effectiveness of justice  
20 reinvestment strategies and their potential use in the State of  
21 West Virginia; and, be it

22       *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
23 report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2011, on its  
24 findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts of

1 any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations; and,  
2 be it

3       *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
4 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
5 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
6 Government and Finance.