

SENATE BILL No. 279

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 1-1-2-2.

Synopsis: Rule of lenity. Specifies that criminal statutes shall be construed strictly against the state and any ambiguities resolved in favor of the accused.

Effective: July 1, 2020.

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January 9, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.



Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2020)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 279

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 1-1-2-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
- 2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 2. **(a)** Crimes shall be defined and
- 3 punishment therefor fixed by statutes of this state and not otherwise.
- 4 **(b) Criminal statutes shall be construed strictly against the state**
- 5 **and any ambiguities resolved in favor of the accused.**

