

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to assign to an appropriate interim study committee the topic of identifying Jim Crow era laws and criminal penalties still in the Indiana Code that were passed specifically to target racial minorities, and to make recommendations on amending or repealing those laws.

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**RANDOLPH LONNIE M**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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Introduced

First Regular Session 122nd General Assembly (2021)

## SENATE RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1           A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council  
2 to assign to an appropriate interim study committee the topic of  
3 identifying Jim Crow era laws and criminal penalties still in the  
4 Indiana Code that were passed specifically to target racial  
5 minorities, and to make recommendations on amending or  
6 repealing those laws.

7           *Whereas, From the 1880s to the 1960s, a majority of*  
8 *American states, including Indiana, enforced segregation,*  
9 *exclusion, and disenfranchisement of the Black community*  
10 *through Jim Crow laws;*

11           *Whereas, In 1851, the Indiana Constitution was revised,*  
12 *and Article XIII was adopted, with its purpose being to prevent*  
13 *African Americans from coming into Indiana, declaring in*  
14 *Section 1, "No Negro or mulatto shall come into or settle in the*  
15 *states, after adoption of this Constitution";*

16           *Whereas, Article XIII, Section 2 of the 1851 Indiana*  
17 *Constitution proclaimed that "[a]ll contracts made with any*  
18 *Negro or Mulatto coming into the State, contrary to the*  
19 *provisions of the foregoing section, shall be void" and created*  
20 *finer for violating the provision;*

2021

DR 3837/DI AM



1           *Whereas, While Article XIII was repealed in 1866, racism*  
2           *remained embedded in Indiana's laws and society, as they were*  
3           *replaced with the Jim Crow laws;*

4           *Whereas, Across the United States and in Indiana, the Jim*  
5           *Crow laws' purpose was to exclude African Americans from*  
6           *being represented or participating in the political process,*  
7           *economy, education, and to uphold White supremacy;*

8           *Whereas, The legacy of the Jim Crow era laws still exists*  
9           *in society today, as violence and exclusion against African*  
10          *Americans has been preserved through the legal structure of*  
11          *laws, societal narratives of Black criminality, and restrictions*  
12          *as a result of the remaining Jim Crow laws still in place or*  
13          *stemming from their legacy;*

14          *Whereas, Currently, there are more African Americans*  
15          *under correctional control in America today, whether through*  
16          *prison, jail, probation, or parole, than there were enslaved in*  
17          *1850, as the current legal and societal structure perpetuates*  
18          *violence and limitations against the African American*  
19          *community; and*

20          *Whereas, In order to achieve an equitable and just society,*  
21          *it is imperative that our legal structure is examined and*  
22          *amended to ensure that laws stemming from and originating*  
23          *during the Jim Crow era are eliminated or amended to support,*  
24          *protect, and give opportunities to the African American*  
25          *community: Therefore,*

26                           *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*  
27                           *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

28  
29           SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate urges the legislative  
30           council to assign to the appropriate study committee the topic  
31           of identifying Jim Crow era laws and criminal penalties still in  
32           the Indiana Code that were passed specifically to target racial



1 minorities and to make recommendations on amending or  
2 repealing those laws.

