

SB-29

Outlining a central blueprint of, and allocating federal funding for, public defense offices on a state level so as to address a crisis in management which constitutes a violation of the sixth amendment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Luce of Vermont introduced the following bill;

A BILL

Outlining a central blueprint of, and allocating federal funding for, public defense offices on a state level so as to address a crisis in management which constitutes a violation of the sixth amendment.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Upholding The Sixth Act".

SECTION 2. CONTINUING STRUCTURAL AND MONETARY REFORM OF PUBLIC DEFENSE OFFICES.

There are hereby appropriated an amount of funds necessary to employ a sufficient number of state employees (as calculated by the Delphi Method). Those funds are to be distributed to the states so as to ensure that public defense offices within those states are sufficiently funded. These funds are to be appropriated and distributed on a yearly basis.

Such sums are necessary to provide pay to public defense attorneys working within state offices.

Such sums are necessary to provide pay to public investigators, secretaries, case managers, case aides, and other such supporting employees within a state public defense office.

Such sums are necessary in the hiring of additional employees within state public defense offices so as to bring employment standards in line with those presented by the Delphi Method.

These funds shall also be allocated towards resources for public defense offices.

With the presence of such funds as allocated by the federal government, the obligation of states and counties to raise funds for local public defense offices will be terminated.

Hereby the structure of public defense offices within the states are to be organized in a standardized manner so as to ensure that funds are spent appropriately and that equal representation under the eyes of the law is afforded in all states.

Public defense attorneys shall be hired directly by the state which employs them.

Management of public defense offices shall be afforded directly to state governments.

Public defense attorneys shall be afforded the ability to defer cases in the event that said attorney feels that taking on additional cases may compromise their focus on cases they currently hold.

Federal funding for state public defense offices shall be no less than 6% of the Department of Justice budget.