

Criminal Code Committee Suggests Public Safety Board

The Legislature's Criminal Code Reorganization Interim Committee has recommended the creation of a new Public Safety Advisory Board to advise the Legislature about current and proposed criminal code changes.

The board will be part of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council (CJJP). The board will consist of members of CJJP, and will include representatives of the legal system, law enforcement, executive branch agencies, and the Legislature.

Specific Crimes

The Criminal Code Reorganization Subcommittee on Specific Crimes considered changes to several crime categories in Iowa. The subcommittee suggests creating a crime for Robbery in the 3rd degree. The crime would be a nonforcible Class D felony. Under current Iowa law, all robbery offenses are forcible felonies requiring a mandatory sentence.

The subcommittee suggests allowing judges to extend probation for up to a year beyond the maximum period of probation allowed by law. Under current law, a judge cannot sentence a criminal to more than five years of probation for a felony or two years for a misdemeanor. Probation can only be extended under this new provision if a violation of probation is established.

The subcommittee also suggests equalizing the penalty for escaping from custody, improving the readability of public intoxication laws to make tracking offenses easier, and clarifying the definition of serious injury in the Iowa code.

These recommendations will be contained in legislation that will be addressed by the Legislature this session.