

HOUSE BILL No. 1646

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: Noncode.

Synopsis: Ballistics and microstamping of firearms. Defines "ballistics" and "microstamping" and urges the legislative council to assign the topic of ballistics and microstamping to an interim study committee.

Effective: July 1, 2017.

Summers

January 24, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Public Policy.



First Regular Session of the 120th General Assembly (2017)

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 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1646

A BILL FOR AN ACT concerning criminal law and procedure.

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

1 SECTION 1. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017] (a) **The following**
2 **definitions apply throughout this SECTION:**
3 (1) **"Ballistics" is the forensic science of matching a**
4 **discharged bullet or cartridge to a particular firearm by**
5 **examining microscopic tool marks left on parts of a firearm**
6 **during the manufacturing process which are transferred to a**
7 **bullet or cartridge casing when the firearm is fired.**
8 (2) **"Microstamping" is the process of etching unique**
9 **microscopic markers onto the tip of a firing pin and the**
10 **breech face of a firearm in such a way that the etchings will be**
11 **transferred to a cartridge in the course of discharging a**
12 **firearm for the purpose of matching a spent cartridge to a**
13 **particular firearm.**
14 (b) **The general assembly urges the legislative council to assign**
15 **to the interim study committee on corrections and criminal code,**
16 **or to another appropriate study committee, the topic of ballistics**
17 **and microstamping.**
18 (c) **The study committee shall consider the following:**



- 1 **(1) The effectiveness of ballistics or microstamping in solving**
- 2 **or preventing crimes involving firearms.**
- 3 **(2) The experience of law enforcement agencies in using**
- 4 **ballistics to match firearms to bullets or spent cartridges.**
- 5 **(3) California's experience with its microstamping program.**
- 6 **(4) The usefulness of the NIST Ballistics Research Toolmark**
- 7 **Database, sponsored by the National Institute of Justice of the**
- 8 **United States Department of Justice.**
- 9 **(d) This SECTION expires November 2, 2017.**

