By Senate Committee on Government Operations,

Joint resolution relating to fiscal notes for bills regarding felonies.

Whereas, the information provided in a fiscal note prepared by the Joint

Fiscal Office assists the General Assembly in conducting its work, and

Whereas, the Joint Fiscal Office is asked to prepare fiscal notes for

individual members and for committees of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, the preparation of a fiscal note can be a time-consuming process

for the Joint Fiscal Office, which is also responsible for other fiscal research

needs of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, it is important to know, at a minimum, whether there will be a

fiscal impact from a bill that creates a new felony or which increases the

penalty on an existing felony, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly moves to amend Section IV (Bills and Joint

Resolutions) of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives by

adding Rule 10a to read:

10a. A committee report that creates a new felony or which increases the

penalty of an existing penalty shall be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared

by the Joint Fiscal Office. The fiscal note shall contain an estimate of the

effect of the creation of the new felony or of the increase in the penalty on an

existing felony upon the expenditures or revenues of the State for the fiscal

year in which the bill would take effect if enacted and for the next five

succeeding years. If the effect of the bill's felony provisions is not expected to

be totally evidenced within that period of time, the estimate shall be projected

beyond that period to include an estimate for the first year in which the felony

provisions are expected to affect fully expenditures or revenues. The fiscal

note need not address any other provision of the bill and shall be presented by

the reporter of the bill. An inaccuracy in a fiscal note or the failure to issue a

fiscal note shall not affect the validity of the bill's passage by either house.