



NEWS RELEASE

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Bill to improve safety for victims of violent crime approved by Senate *Senate also approves measure to support hybrid vehicle industry in Indiana*

INDIANAPOLIS –Legislation sponsored by State Senator Tim Lanane (D-Anderson) that will help keep violent offenders from being able to contact their victims was passed by a 49 to 1 vote in the Senate on Monday.

House Bill 1234, which was authored by State Representative Scott Reske (D-Pendleton), expedites the issuance of the no contact order after an arrest in the investigation of a violent crime. The change will prevent a defendant charged with a violent crime from any direct or indirect contact with the victim for up to 10 days following the defendant's release on bail. Following a court hearing, the period may be extended.

"This legislation provides additional time to the cooling off period and sends the message that violent offenses are not taken lightly by the courts. The court would be allowed to immediately and automatically issue a no contact order in certain circumstances," said Sen. Lanane.

The legislation also provides that a person ordinarily approved by statute to make final arrangements for a decedent may not do so if, before death, a protective order existed between the decedent and the person.

HB 1188, authored by State Representative Terri Austin (D-Anderson) and sponsored by Sen. Lanane, was passed with a unanimous vote in the Senate on Monday. The legislation would establish special automobile license plates for use on research and development vehicles by manufacturers of vehicle subcomponent systems.

The bill makes it easier for hybrid vehicle companies like Bright Corporation in Anderson to legally test drive their manufactured vehicles on Indiana roads and highways.

HB 1234 and HB 1188 now return to the House where Senate amendments will be considered.

For more information on Sen. Lanane and updates on his activities in the Senate or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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