



SENATOR  
**JOHN BRODEN**  
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 10

**NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release:*  
June 3, 2010

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**Broden announces summer study to improve safety of Hoosier renters**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Senator John Broden (D-South Bend) announced today that the Commission on Courts will meet this summer to study how state law can improve the safety of Hoosiers who live in apartments or rental homes by allowing lease terminations in special situations. Originally presented during the 2010 General Assembly in House Bill (HB) 1073, Broden said the commission is being asked to review how a rental property tenant could be allowed to terminate the lease agreement if the tenant is the victim of certain crimes while living in the rental unit.

The topic was assigned to the commission by the Legislative Council of the Indiana General Assembly, which met today to finalize the topics assigned to 2010 interim study committees. The committees will study and make findings and recommendations for the upcoming legislative session.

“No one should ever be forced to stay in a residence where they feel unsafe,” said Broden. “My hope is that this commission will develop a recommendation to allow renters who have been victims of a crime in their home to end the lease and move to a safer location without penalty.”

HB 1073, referred to as Sheena’s Law, was authored after Sheena Kiska was killed in her Elkhart County apartment in March 2008. Kiska had been the victim of a burglary one month before her death and tried to leave the area. However, the apartment management was going to charge her three months rent to break the lease.

Sheena’s Law was approved in the House of Representatives by a vote of 92-2. It was not given a committee hearing in the Senate and failed to become law. Broden says he hopes that the Commission on Courts will have a recommendation that can gain approval in the General Assembly in 2011.

The General Assembly annually convenes interim study committees and permanent commissions to conduct in-depth research and analysis of issues affecting the state. Recommendations from these committees are often the basis for future legislation. More information about committee topics, schedules and agendas is available online at [www.in.gov/legislative/interim](http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim).

For more information on Broden, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit [www.senatedemocrats.in.gov](http://www.senatedemocrats.in.gov).

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