



NEWS RELEASE

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Lanane bill clarifying guidelines for DUI bodily substance samples passes through committee

A unanimous vote sends the bill to senate floor for full consideration

INDIANAPOLIS –Legislation authored by State Senator Tim Lanane (D-Anderson), and recommended unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee, will assist in the enforcement of drunk driving laws by clarifying procedures pertaining to blood alcohol content determined from blood samples drawn at local hospitals.

Blood drawn at hospitals are often taken by trained technicians operating under a physician's protocols. Although such procedures have been accepted throughout the state for many years, a recent appellate court ruling had cast doubt on the validity of such blood samples, possibly jeopardizing current drunk driving cases and convictions. Senate Bill 342 will clarify that the intent of the law was to allow such hospital blood draws and restore the long accepted procedure for drawing blood for purposes of conducting blood alcohol content tests.

"This legislation is very important to prosecutors and law enforcement throughout the state," Lanane said. "I am very hopeful that the full senate will adopt the unanimous recommendation of the Judiciary Committee to clarify the law and do so immediately."

Lanane has worked with the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council to craft the legislation. The Council also testified in favor of Lanane's bill in committee, as did Monroe County Prosecutor Chris Gaal, who brought the issue to the attention of Senate Democrat Leader Vi Simpson (D-Ellettsville).

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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