



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
March 4, 2010

Media Contact:
Peg McLeish, 317-232-9507
Elise Shrock, 317-232-9496

Sipes bill to provide better court efficiency heads to governor's office

INDIANAPOLIS –Today the Indiana Senate and Indiana House of Representatives gave final approval to legislation that would redistribute the Floyd County Circuit Court's caseload for better court efficiency. Senate Bill (SB) 307, authored by State Senator Connie Sipes (D-New Albany), was approved by a vote of 50 to 0 in the Senate and a vote of 96 to 0 in the House.

SB 307 provides that in Floyd County, the Circuit Court would have exclusive jurisdiction over probate and trust matters. The bill also proposes that the Floyd Circuit Court and Floyd Superior Court No. 3 have concurrent juvenile jurisdiction.

The bill would permit juvenile cases, which comprise 22 percent of the Circuit Court's workload, to be shared between the two courts.

"It is my hope that this increases efficiency and ensures a speedy process for every case," said Sen. Sipes. "The bill would result in a more unified court system."

SB 307 will now be sent to the governor for final consideration and possible enactment. If signed, the bill will become effective immediately.

For more information on Senator Sipes, her legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

###