

Submitter: Sierra Hanover

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Public Safety

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5031

Private investigation for indigent defense requires contact with clients that are often without a phone, stable housing, or transportation. Many times, you are working to keep in contact with your client while simultaneously locating and contacting witnesses or involved parties. Frequent and repeated contact is not abnormal and as previously referenced contact can be limited due to the client's financial hardships. Although I have limited experience as an investigator, private investigation for indigent defense has taken me to many different places. Some of those places are the county jails, locations frequented by those afflicted with addiction and mental health issues and trap houses. I work alongside many investigators which I trust and respect that frequently encounter hostile or violent subjects and environments during the course of their investigations. I believe that the men and women I work alongside are very deserving of a wage that reflects their commitment to unearthing the truth and working with clients who are deserving of a fair defense.

I stand firmly in support of HB 5031 to raise the investigator hourly rate to \$75 effective July 2025.