

SUBJECT: Increasing the criminal penalty for purchasing or selling human organs

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Moody, Cook, Darby, Leach, C. Morales, Schatzline

0 nays

3 absent — Bhojani, Bowers, Harrison

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (May 3) — 31 - 0

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriffs Regional Alliance)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that the current penalty for purchasing or selling human organs should be increased.

DIGEST: SB 436 would increase the penalty for the offense of purchasing and selling human organs from a class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$4,000) to a state-jail felony (180 days to two years in a state jail and an optional fine of up to \$10,000).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would apply only to an offense committed on or after that date.