

HB 1218 -- INFORMANT TESTIMONY

SPONSOR: Collins

This bill requires prosecuting or circuit attorneys to disclose any consideration provided to an in-custody informant. Other information including video and audio recordings or statements by the informant and his or her criminal history, prior assistance, and credibility must also be provided as specified in the bill.

For admission in a court of law, testimony by an in-custody informant must be approved in a court proceeding which finds it to be reliable and corroborated by other evidence by a preponderance of the evidence standard. Factors for consideration of reliability are provided in the bill. Juries will be told to consider the relationship between the accused and the informant if trial testimony occurs.

The Attorney General shall create and maintain a registry of in-custody informants which shall only be available to prosecuting attorneys, circuit attorneys, defense attorneys, and law enforcement officers. The registry shall not be a public record.