

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HJ-92

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER'S  
COMPENSATION AWARD TO RICHARD LAPOINTE WITH RESPECT TO HIS

**Title:** CLAIM AGAINST THE STATE FOR WRONGFUL INCARCERATION.

**Vote Date:** 4/10/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/28/2025

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Judiciary Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

If the Office of the Claims Commissioner grants an award to a claimant, the Judiciary Committee and the General Assembly must review the decision of the Claims Commissioner. The wrongful incarceration claim of Richard Lapointe was sent to the Judiciary Committee for review with the annual submission of wrongful incarceration claims from the Office of the Claims Commissioner. This resolution confirms the Claims Commissioner's order of immediate payment in the amount of \$5,875,000.00 to Richard Lapointe for compensation regarding his claim against the state for wrongful incarceration.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Amanda Wallwin, State Policy Advocate, Innocence Project:** She submitted testimony in support of the resolution. She stated that they are grateful for the quick attention to the wrongful incarceration claims after passing SB 439 in 2024.

**W. James Cousins, Counsel for the Estate of Richard Lapointe:** He submitted testimony in support of the resolution, providing a summary of information regarding the timeline of the case.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by:** Kirstin Breiner

**Date:** April 24, 2025