From: Peel, Jackson
To: Press
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Michael Grieco Files Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform Bill
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 4:35:07 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2021

CONTACT
Gabriela Navarro
Office of Representative Grieco
Gabriela.Navarro@myfloridahouse.gov
(786)-237-8070

Representative Michael Grieco Files Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform Bill

Tallahassee, FL – Representative Michael Grieco (D-Miami) filed **HB 395** today. **Rep. Grieco**, who is the Ranking Minority Member of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and a criminal defense attorney, has just filed a comprehensive criminal justice reform package touching multiple aspects of the system.

The bill initially incorporates the same language as Senator Jeff Brandes' recently-filed "Resentencing" Bill (**SB662**). Both bills provide a mechanism that authorizes the state attorney to petition the court to reduce a defendant's sentence if it no longer advances the interests of justice (known elsewhere as a "Second Look").

HB395 also provides a mechanism, somewhat similar to federal court, in which a judge may waive a 3-year narcotics minimum mandatory sentence when certain criteria are met.

Lastly, the legislation eliminates the possibility of prison time (any sentence in excess of a year) for cases in which a defendant possessed less than a gram of most drugs.

Representative Grieco said, "During my first term in the Florida House we saw some movement regarding criminal justice reform and I felt this was the year to continue moving Florida in the right direction. Justice and equity are not partisan issues and the concepts embraced by my bill are not so drastic that they should receive hard no's from leadership in the legislature. It's time for us to start addressing Florida's non-violent drug "offenders" differently, and all three pillars of this bill do exactly that. I truly look forward to the bipartisan dialogue that will surely result from this filing announcement."

###