

HB 1633 -- LESSER INCLUDED OFFENSES (Corlew)

This bill specifies that a court shall be obligated to charge the jury with respect to an included offense only if it is established by proof of the same or less than all the elements required to establish the commission of the offense charged, there is a rational basis in the evidence for a verdict acquitting the person of the offense charged and convicting the person of the included offense, and either party requests the court to charge the jury with respect to a specific included offense.

Failure of the defendant or defendant's counsel to request the court to charge the jury with respect to a specific included offense shall not be a basis for plain-error review on direct appeal or post-conviction relief. It shall be the trial court's duty to determine if a rational basis in the evidence for a verdict exists.

Currently, the court shall be obligated to instruct the jury with respect to a particular included offense only if there is a basis in the evidence for acquitting the person of the immediately higher included offense and there is a basis in the evidence for convicting the person of that particular included offense, the bill repeals this language.