

\*\*\*\* Bill No. \*\*\*\*

Introduced By \*\*\*\*\*

By Request of the \*\*\*\*\*

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act revising presentence investigation laws; requiring a preliminary or final report to be provided to the court within 30 days; requiring a probation and parole officer to use a validated risk and needs assessment as part of the investigation and report; allowing the department of corrections to use employees with specific training to prepare presentence reports; prohibiting the report from containing a sentencing recommendation; and amending sections 46-18-111 and 46-18-112, MCA."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

**Section 1.** Section 46-18-111 , MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-18-111. Presentence investigation -- when required -- definition.** (1) (a) (i) Upon the acceptance of a plea or upon a verdict or finding of guilty to one or more felony offenses, the district court shall direct the probation and parole officer to make a presentence investigation and report unless an investigation and report has been provided to the court prior to the plea, verdict, or finding of guilty.

(ii) Unless additional information is required under subsections (b), (c), or (d) of this section, a preliminary or final presentence investigation and report must be available to the court within 30 days of the plea, verdict, or finding of guilty.

(iii) The district court shall consider the presentence investigation report prior to sentencing.

(b) If the defendant was convicted of an offense under 45-5-502, 45-5-503, 45-5-504, 45-5-507, 45-5-601(3), 45-5-602(3), 45-5-603(2)(b), 45-5-625, 45-5-627, 45-5-704, 45-5-705, or 45-8-218 or if the defendant was convicted under 46-23-507 and the offender was convicted of failure to register as a sexual offender pursuant to Title 46, chapter 23, part 5, the investigation must include a psychosexual evaluation of the defendant and a recommendation as to treatment of the defendant in the least restrictive environment, considering the risk the defendant presents to the community and the defendant's needs, unless the defendant was sentenced under 46-18-219. The evaluation must be completed by a sexual offender evaluator who is a member of the Montana sex offender treatment association or has comparable credentials acceptable to the department of labor and industry. The psychosexual evaluation must be made available to the county attorney's office, the defense attorney, the probation and parole officer, and the sentencing judge. All costs related to the evaluation must be paid by the defendant. If the defendant is determined by the district court to be indigent, all costs related to the evaluation are the responsibility of the district court and must be paid by the county or the state, or both, under Title 3, chapter 5, part 9. The district court may order subsequent psychosexual evaluations at the request of the county attorney. The requestor of any subsequent psychosexual evaluations is responsible for the cost of the evaluation.

(c) If the defendant was convicted of an offense under 45-5-212(2)(b) or (2)(c), the investigation may include a mental health evaluation of the defendant and a recommendation as to treatment of the defendant in the least restrictive environment, considering the risk the defendant presents to the community and the defendant's needs. The evaluation must be completed by a qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse, or other professional with comparable credentials acceptable to the department of labor and industry. The mental health evaluation must be made available to the county attorney's office, the defense attorney, the probation and parole officer, and the sentencing judge. All costs related to the evaluation must be paid by the defendant. If the defendant is determined by the district court to be indigent, all costs related to the evaluation are the responsibility of the district court and must be paid by the county or the state, or both, under Title 3, chapter 5, part 9.

(d) When, pursuant to 46-14-311, the court has ordered a presentence investigation and a report pursuant to this section, the mental evaluation required by 46-14-311 must be attached to the presentence investigation report and becomes part of the report. The report must be made available to persons and entities as provided in 46-18-113.

(2) The court shall order a presentence investigation report unless the court makes a finding that a report is unnecessary. Unless the court makes that finding, a defendant convicted of any offense not enumerated in subsection (1) that may result in incarceration for

1 year or more may not be sentenced before a written presentence investigation report by a probation and parole officer is presented to and considered by the district court. The district court may order a presentence investigation for a defendant convicted of a misdemeanor only if the defendant was convicted of a misdemeanor that the state originally charged as a sexual or violent offense as defined in 46-23-502.

(3) The defendant shall pay to the department of corrections a \$50 fee at the time that the report is completed, unless the court determines that the defendant is not able to pay the fee within a reasonable time. The fee may be retained by the department and used to finance contracts entered into under 53-1-203(5).

(4) For the purposes of this section and 46-18-112, "probation and parole officer" means:

(a) a probation and parole officer who is employed by the department of corrections pursuant to 46-23-1002; or

(b) an employee of the department of corrections who has received specific training or who possesses specific expertise to make a presentence investigation and report but who is not required to be licensed as a probation and parole officer by the public safety officer standards and training council created in 2-15-2029."

{Internal References to 46-18-111:

41-5-1513x 46-14-311x 7/15 }

**Section 2.** Section 46-18-112 , MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-18-112. Content of presentence investigation report. (1)**

Whenever an investigation is required, the probation and parole officer shall promptly inquire into and report upon:

(a) the defendant's characteristics, circumstances, needs, and potentialities, as reflected in a validated risk and needs assessment;

(b) the defendant's criminal record and social history;

(c) the circumstances of the offense;

(d) the time of the defendant's detention for the offenses charged;

(e) the harm caused, as a result of the offense, to the victim, the victim's immediate family, and the community; and

(f) the victim's pecuniary loss, if any. The officer shall make a reasonable effort to confer with the victim to ascertain whether the victim has sustained a pecuniary loss. If the victim is not available or declines to confer, the officer shall record that information in the report.

(2) The report may not include a sentencing recommendation for the defendant.

~~(2)~~(3) All local and state mental and correctional institutions, courts, and law enforcement agencies shall furnish, upon request of the officer preparing a presentence investigation, the defendant's criminal record and other relevant information.

~~(3)~~(4) The court may, in its discretion, require that the presentence investigation report include a physical and mental examination of the defendant.

~~(4)~~(5) Upon sentencing, the court shall forward to the sheriff

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all information contained in the presentence investigation report concerning the physical and mental health of the defendant, and the information must be delivered with the defendant as required in 46-19-101."

{*Internal References to 46-18-112:*

46-14-301x 7/15 }

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{Name : Rachel J. Weiss  
Title : Research Analyst  
Agency : Legislative Services Division  
Phone : 406-444-5367  
E-Mail : rweiss@mt.gov}

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