

HOUSE BILL NO. 600

INTRODUCED BY R. EHLE

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE PRODUCTION OR MANUFACTURE OF ANY SCHEDULE I DRUG CONSTITUTES THE OFFENSE OF ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN; INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF THE MAXIMUM FINE FOLLOWING CONVICTION; AND AMENDING SECTION 45-5-622, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 45-5-622, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-5-622. Endangering welfare of children. (1) A parent, guardian, or other person supervising the welfare of a child less than 18 years old commits the offense of endangering the welfare of children if the parent, guardian, or other person knowingly endangers the child's welfare by violating a duty of care, protection, or support.

(2) Except as provided in 16-6-305, a parent or guardian or any person who is 18 years of age or older, whether or not the parent, guardian, or other person is supervising the welfare of the child, commits the offense of endangering the welfare of children if the parent, guardian, or other person knowingly contributes to the delinquency of a child less than:

(a) 18 years old by:

- (i) supplying or encouraging the use of an intoxicating substance by the child; or
- (ii) assisting, promoting, or encouraging the child to enter a place of prostitution; or

(b) 16 years old by assisting, promoting, or encouraging the child to:

- (i) abandon the child's place of residence without the consent of the child's parents or guardian; or
- (ii) engage in sexual conduct.

(3) A person, whether or not the person is supervising the welfare of a child less than 18 years of age, commits the offense of endangering the welfare of children if the person, in the residence of a child, in a building, structure, conveyance, or outdoor location where a child might reasonably be expected to be present, in a room offered to the public for overnight accommodation, or in any multiple-unit residential building, knowingly:

(a) produces or manufactures methamphetamine or attempts to produce or manufacture

