

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

INTRODUCED BY M. MACDONALD

BY REQUEST OF THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN OFFENDERS; EXPANDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND AMENDING SECTION 46-23-1002, MCA."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Rental vouchers.** (1) If the department does not approve an offender's parole plan because the offender is unable to secure suitable living arrangements, the department may provide rental vouchers to the offender for a period not to exceed 3 months if the rental assistance will result in an approved parole plan.

(2) The voucher must be provided in conjunction with additional transition support that enables the offender to participate in programs and services, including but not limited to substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, sex offender treatment, educational programming, or employment programming.

Section 2. Section 46-23-1002, MCA, is amended to read:

"46-23-1002. Powers of the department. The department may:

(1) appoint probation and parole officers and other employees necessary to administer this part;

(2) authorize probation and parole officers to carry firearms, including concealed firearms, when necessary. The department shall adopt rules establishing firearms training requirements and procedures for authorizing the carrying of firearms.

(3) adopt rules for the conduct of persons placed on parole or probation, except that the department may not make any rule conflicting with conditions of parole imposed by the board or conditions of probation imposed by a court; and

(4) adopt rules to administer the rental voucher program the department may implement pursuant to [section 1]."



