

HOUSE BILL NO. 478  
INTRODUCED BY PETERSON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A CRIMINAL SENTENCE TO INCLUDE A PROVISION FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE LICENSE OR DRIVING PRIVILEGE OF THE CONVICTED PERSON UPON THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY PENALTY, RESTRICTION, OR CONDITION OF THE SENTENCE; PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE LICENSE OR DRIVING PRIVILEGE; AMENDING SECTIONS 46-18-201 AND 61-5-214, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 46-18-201, MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-18-201. Sentences that may be imposed.** (1) (a) Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, a sentencing judge may defer imposition of sentence, except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, for a period:

(i) not exceeding 1 year for a misdemeanor or for a period not exceeding 3 years for a felony; or  
(ii) not exceeding 2 years for a misdemeanor or for a period not exceeding 6 years for a felony if a financial obligation is imposed as a condition of sentence for either the misdemeanor or the felony, regardless of whether any other conditions are imposed.

(b) Except as provided in 46-18-222, imposition of sentence in a felony case may not be deferred in the case of an offender who has been convicted of a felony on a prior occasion, whether or not the sentence was imposed, imposition of the sentence was deferred, or execution of the sentence was suspended.

(2) Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, a sentencing judge may suspend execution of sentence, except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, for a period up to the maximum sentence allowed or for a period of 6 months, whichever is greater, for each particular offense.

(3) Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, a sentencing judge may impose a sentence that may include:

(a) a fine as provided by law for the offense;  
(b) payment of costs, as provided in 46-18-232, or payment of costs of court-appointed counsel as

provided in 46-8-113;

(c) a term of incarceration at a county detention center or state prison, as provided in Title 45, for the offense;

(d) commitment of:

(i) an offender not referred to in subsection (3)(d)(ii) to the department of corrections, with a recommendation for placement in an appropriate correctional facility or program; however, all but the first 5 years of the commitment to the department of corrections must be suspended; or

(ii) a youth transferred to district court under 41-5-206 and found guilty in the district court of an offense enumerated in 41-5-206 to the department of corrections for a period determined by the court for placement in an appropriate correctional facility or program;

(e) with the approval of the facility or program, placement of the offender in a community corrections facility or program as provided in 53-30-321;

(f) with the approval of the prerelease center or prerelease program and confirmation by the department of corrections that space is available, placement of the offender in a prerelease center or prerelease program for a period not to exceed 1 year;

(g) chemical treatment of sex offenders, as provided in 45-5-512, if applicable, that is paid for by and for a period of time determined by the department of corrections, but not exceeding the period of state supervision of the person; or

(h) any combination of subsections (2) through (3)(g).

(4) When deferring imposition of sentence or suspending all or a portion of execution of sentence, the sentencing judge may impose upon the offender any reasonable restrictions or conditions during the period of the deferred imposition or suspension of sentence. Reasonable restrictions or conditions imposed under subsection (1)(a) or (2) may include but are not limited to:

(a) limited release during employment hours as provided in 46-18-701;

(b) incarceration in a detention center not exceeding 180 days;

(c) conditions for probation;

(d) payment of the costs of confinement;

(e) payment of a fine as provided in 46-18-231;

(f) payment of costs as provided in 46-18-232 and 46-18-233;

(g) payment of costs of court-appointed counsel as provided in 46-8-113;

(h) with the approval of the facility or program, an order that the offender be placed in a community

corrections facility or program as provided in 53-30-321;

(i) with the approval of the prerelease center or prerelease program and confirmation by the department of corrections that space is available, an order that the offender be placed in a prerelease center or prerelease program for a period not to exceed 1 year;

(j) community service;

(k) home arrest as provided in Title 46, chapter 18, part 10;

(l) payment of expenses for use of a judge pro tempore or special master as provided in 3-5-116;

(m) with the approval of the department of corrections and with a signed statement from an offender that the offender's participation in the boot camp incarceration program is voluntary, an order that the offender complete the boot camp incarceration program established pursuant to 53-30-403;

(n) any other reasonable restrictions or conditions considered necessary for rehabilitation or for the protection of the victim or society; or

(o) any combination of the restrictions or conditions listed in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(n).

(5) In addition to any penalties imposed pursuant to ~~subsection (4)~~ this section, if the sentencing judge finds that the victim of the offense has sustained a pecuniary loss, the sentencing judge shall require payment of full restitution to the victim as provided in 46-18-241 through 46-18-249.

(6) In addition to any of the penalties, restrictions, or conditions imposed pursuant to subsections (1) through (5), the sentencing judge may include the suspension of the license or driving privilege of the person to be imposed upon the failure to comply with any penalty, restriction, or condition of the sentence. A suspension of the license or driving privilege of the person must be accomplished as provided in 61-5-214 through 61-5-217, EXCEPT THAT A PROVISIONAL, RESTRICTED, OR PROBATIONARY LICENSE MAY BE ISSUED.

~~(6)~~(7) In imposing a sentence on an offender convicted of a sexual or violent offense, as defined in 46-23-502, the sentencing judge may not waive the registration requirement provided in Title 46, chapter 23, part 5.

~~(7)~~(8) If a felony sentence includes probation, the department of corrections shall supervise the offender unless the court specifies otherwise."

**Section 2.** Section 61-5-214, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-5-214. Mandatory suspension for failure to appear or pay fine -- notice.** (1) The department shall suspend the license or driving privilege of a person immediately upon receipt of a certified copy of a docket page or other sufficient evidence from the court that the person:

(a) is charged with or convicted of a violation of chapters 3 through 10 of this title or fails to comply with a sentence imposed pursuant to 46-18-201(6);

(b) (i) failed to post the set bond amount or appear upon issued complaint, summons, or court order; or

(ii) when assessed a fine, costs, or restitution of \$100 or more, failed to pay the fine, costs, or restitution;

and

(c) received prior written notice that the driver's license or driving privileges of the person will be suspended upon a failure to post bond or appear on an issued complaint, summons, or court order or upon a failure to pay assessed fines, costs, or restitution.

(2) The suspension continues in effect until the court notifies the department that the person has paid the reinstatement fee and either appeared in court or paid the assessed fines, costs, or restitution.

(3) The notice required under this section may be included on the summons or complaint and notice to appear form given to the person when charges are initially filed or may be contained in a court order, either hand-delivered to the person while in court or sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the most current address for that person received by or on record with the court. The initial notice must be followed by a written warning from the court, sent by first-class mail, advising the person that a license suspension is imminent and of the probable consequences of a suspension unless the person appears or pays within a specified number of days."

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Applicability.** [This act] applies to sentences imposed for offenses committed after [the effective date of this act].

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