



AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COSTS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH EXAMINATION AND COMMITMENT OF A CRIMINAL DEFENDANT; PROVIDING THAT COSTS FOR THE EXAMINATION, CARE, CUSTODY, AND TREATMENT OF A CRIMINAL DEFENDANT FOR WHICH THE LEGISLATURE HAS MADE A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION MAY NOT BE CHARGED TO THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR OR THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER; AMENDING SECTIONS 3-5-901, 46-14-202, AND 46-14-221, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

**Section 1.** Section 3-5-901, MCA, is amended to read:

**"3-5-901. State assumption of district court expenses.** (1) There is a state-funded district court program under the judicial branch. Under this program, the office of court administrator shall fund all district court costs, except as provided in subsection (3). These costs include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) salaries and benefits for:
  - (i) district court judges;
  - (ii) law clerks;
  - (iii) court reporters, as provided in 3-5-601;
  - (iv) juvenile probation officers, youth division offices staff, and assessment officers of the youth court; and
  - (v) other employees of the district court;
- (b) in criminal cases:
  - (i) fees for transcripts of proceedings, as provided in 3-5-604;
  - (ii) witness fees and necessary expenses, as provided in 46-15-116;
  - (iii) juror fees and necessary expenses;
  - (iv) for a psychiatric ~~evaluation~~ examination under 46-14-202, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses, as provided in 46-14-202(4)(a)(i) and (4)(a)(iii); and
  - (v) for a ~~psychiatric evaluation~~ commitment under 46-14-221, the cost of the ~~examination and other associated expenses~~, transporting the defendant to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services to be placed in an appropriate facility of the department of public health and human services

and of transporting the defendant back for any proceedings, as provided in 46-14-221(5);

(c) except as provided in 47-1-201(5), the district court expenses in all postconviction proceedings held pursuant to Title 46, chapter 21, and in all habeas corpus proceedings held pursuant to Title 46, chapter 22, and appeals from those proceedings;

(d) except as provided in 47-1-201(5), the following expenses incurred by the state in federal habeas corpus cases that challenge the validity of a conviction or of a sentence:

- (i) transcript fees;
- (ii) witness fees; and
- (iii) expenses for psychiatric examinations;

(e) except as provided in 47-1-201(5), the following expenses incurred by the state in a proceeding held pursuant to Title 41, chapter 3, part 4 or 6, that seeks temporary investigative authority of a youth, temporary legal custody of a youth, or termination of the parent-child legal relationship and permanent custody:

- (i) transcript fees;
  - (ii) witness fees;
  - (iii) expenses for medical and psychological evaluation of a youth or the youth's parent, guardian, or other person having physical or legal custody of the youth except for expenses for services that a person is eligible to receive under a public program that provides medical or psychological evaluation;
  - (iv) expenses associated with appointment of a guardian ad litem or child advocate for the youth; and
  - (v) expenses associated with court-ordered alternative dispute resolution;
- (f) except as provided in 47-1-201(5), costs of juror and witness fees and witness expenses before a grand jury;

(g) costs of the court-sanctioned educational program concerning the effects of dissolution of marriage on children, as required in 40-4-226, and expenses of education when ordered for the investigation and preparation of a report concerning parenting arrangements, as provided in 40-4-215(2)(a);

(h) except as provided in 47-1-201(5), all district court expenses associated with civil jury trials if similar expenses were paid out of the district court fund or the county general fund in any previous year;

(i) all other costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the district court, including contract costs for court reporters who are independent contractors; and

(j) costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the youth court and youth court division operations pursuant to 41-5-111 and subsection (1)(a) of this section, except for those costs paid by other entities

identified in Title 41, chapter 5.

(2) If a cost is not paid directly by the office of court administrator, the county shall pay the cost and the office of court administrator shall reimburse the county within 30 days of receipt of a claim.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), district court costs paid by the office of court administrator do not include:

- (a) costs for clerks of district court and employees and expenses of the offices of the clerks of district court;
- (b) costs of providing and maintaining district court office space; or
- (c) charges incurred against a county by virtue of any provision of Title 7 or 46."

**Section 2.** Section 46-14-202, MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-14-202. Examination of defendant.** (1) If the defendant or the defendant's counsel files a written motion requesting an examination or if the issue of the defendant's fitness to proceed is raised by the district court, prosecution, or defense counsel, the district court shall appoint at least one qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered nurse or shall request the superintendent of the Montana state hospital to designate at least one qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered nurse, who may be or include the superintendent, to examine and report upon the defendant's mental condition.

(2) The court may order the defendant to be committed to a hospital or other suitable facility for the purpose of the examination for a period not exceeding 60 days or a longer period that the court determines to be necessary for the purpose and may direct that a qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered nurse retained by the defendant be permitted to witness and participate in the examination.

(3) In the examination, any method may be employed that is accepted by the medical or psychological profession for the examination of those alleged to be suffering from mental disease or defect.

(4) (a) The costs incurred for an examination ordered under subsection (2) must be paid as follows:

(i) if the issue of the defendant's fitness to proceed was raised by the district court or the examination was requested by the prosecution, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses must be paid by the court or, in district court proceedings, by the office of court administrator, as provided in 3-5-901 except as provided in subsection (4)(a)(iv);

(ii) ~~if the defendant was represented by an attorney assigned pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, and the examination was requested by the defendant or the defendant's counsel, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses must be paid by the defendant or, if the defendant was represented by an attorney pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, by the office of state public defender, except as provided by subsection (4)(a)(iv);~~

(iii) ~~if the defendant was represented by an attorney assigned pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, and the examination was jointly requested by the prosecution and defense counsel or the need for the examination was jointly agreed to by the prosecution and defense, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses must be divided and paid equally by the court or, in district court proceedings, by the office of court administrator, and the defendant or, if the defendant was represented by an attorney assigned pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, by the office of state public defender, except as provided in subsection (4)(a)(iv);~~

(iv) any costs for an examination performed by an employee of the department of public health and human services, any other associated expenses at a facility of the department of public health and human services, and any other associated expenses for which the legislature has made a general fund appropriation to the department of public health and human services may not be charged to the office of court administrator or the office of state public defender.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (4), "other associated expenses" means the following costs incurred in association with the commitment to a hospital or other suitable facility for the purpose of examination, regardless of whether the examination is done at the Montana state hospital or any other facility:

(i) the expenses of transporting the defendant from the place of detention to the place where the examination is performed and returning the defendant to detention, including personnel costs of the law enforcement agency by whom the defendant is detained;

(ii) housing expenses of the facility where the examination is performed; and

(iii) medical costs, including medical and dental care, including costs of medication."

**Section 3.** Section 46-14-221, MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-14-221. Determination of fitness to proceed -- effect of finding of unfitness -- expenses.** (1) The issue of the defendant's fitness to proceed may be raised by the court, by the defendant or the defendant's counsel, or by the prosecutor. When the issue is raised, it must be determined by the court. If neither the

prosecutor nor the defendant's counsel contests the finding of the report filed under 46-14-206, the court may make the determination on the basis of the report. If the finding is contested, the court shall hold a hearing on the issue. If the report is received in evidence upon the hearing, the parties have the right to subpoena and cross-examine the psychiatrists or licensed clinical psychologists who joined in the report and to offer evidence upon the issue.

(2) (a) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the proceeding against the defendant must be suspended, except as provided in subsection (4), and the court shall commit the defendant to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services to be placed in an appropriate mental health facility, as defined in 53-21-102, or residential facility, as defined in 53-20-102, of the department of public health and human services for so long as the unfitness endures or until disposition of the defendant is made pursuant to this section, whichever occurs first.

(b) The facility shall develop an individualized treatment plan to assist the defendant to gain fitness to proceed. The treatment plan may include a physician's prescription of reasonable and appropriate medication that is consistent with accepted medical standards. If the defendant refuses to comply with the treatment plan, the facility may petition the court for an order requiring compliance. The defendant has a right to a hearing on the petition. The court shall enter into the record a detailed statement of the facts upon which an order is made, and if compliance with the individualized treatment plan is ordered, the court shall also enter into the record specific findings that the state has proved an overriding justification for the order and that the treatment being ordered is medically appropriate.

(3) (a) The committing court shall, within 90 days of commitment, review the defendant's fitness to proceed. If the court finds that the defendant is still unfit to proceed and that it does not appear that the defendant will become fit to proceed within the reasonably foreseeable future, the proceeding against the defendant must be dismissed, except as provided in subsection (4).

(b) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed because the defendant has a mental disorder, the proceeding against the defendant must be dismissed and the prosecutor shall petition the court in the manner provided in Title 53, chapter 21, to determine the disposition of the defendant pursuant to those provisions.

(c) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed because the defendant has a developmental disability as defined in 53-20-102, the proceeding against the defendant must be dismissed and the prosecutor shall petition the court in the manner provided in Title 53, chapter 20, to determine the disposition

of the defendant pursuant to those provisions.

(4) The fact that the defendant is unfit to proceed does not preclude any legal objection to the prosecution that is susceptible to fair determination prior to trial and that is made without the personal participation of the defendant.

(5) ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection (6), the expenses of sending transporting the defendant to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services to be placed in an appropriate facility of the department of public health and human services, of keeping the defendant there the care, custody, and treatment of the defendant at the facility, and of bringing transporting the defendant back are payable by the court or, in district court proceedings, by the office of court administrator ~~as a district court expense as provided for in 3-5-901.~~

(6) The cost of care, custody, and treatment at a facility for which the legislature has made a general fund appropriation to the department of public health and human services may not be charged to the office of court administrator."

**Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2007.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
SB 0124, originated in the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

SENATE BILL NO. 124

INTRODUCED BY D. HARRINGTON

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COSTS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH EXAMINATION AND COMMITMENT OF A CRIMINAL DEFENDANT; PROVIDING THAT COSTS FOR THE EXAMINATION, CARE, CUSTODY, AND TREATMENT OF A CRIMINAL DEFENDANT FOR WHICH THE LEGISLATURE HAS MADE A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION MAY NOT BE CHARGED TO THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR OR THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER; AMENDING SECTIONS 3-5-901, 46-14-202, AND 46-14-221, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.