

HOUSE BILL NO. 71

INTRODUCED BY MACDONALD

BY REQUEST OF THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

1  
2  
3  
4  
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THE INTENT AND DEFINITION OF RESTORATIVE  
6 JUSTICE; ELIMINATING THE OFFICE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE; ~~ESTABLISHING A RESTORATIVE~~  
7 ~~JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL; PROVIDING AN~~  
8 ~~APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING A COORDINATION INSTRUCTION REGARDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE~~  
9 ~~DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND THE MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL;~~ AMENDING  
10 SECTIONS 2-15-2012, 2-15-2013, AND 46-15-411, MCA; ~~REPEALING SECTION 2-15-2014, MCA;~~ AND  
11 PROVIDING AN AN EFFECTIVE DATE EFFECTIVE DATES DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."  
12

13 WHEREAS, the Law and Justice Interim Committee examined the efficacy of restorative justice principles  
14 and practices within the criminal justice system as requested by Senate Joint Resolution No. 29 from the 2011  
15 legislative session; and

16 WHEREAS, the Committee found that restorative justice programs have been established in Gallatin  
17 County, Lewis and Clark County, Missoula County, and Flathead County; and

18 WHEREAS, the Committee found that these programs have proven successful in significantly reducing  
19 incarceration rates and the risk that offenders will reoffend;

20 WHEREAS, this saves the state money that would otherwise need to be spent on providing additional  
21 jail and prison capacity at a per-inmate cost averaging about \$90 a day or about \$33,000 a year; and

22 WHEREAS, the local programs were initially supported by federal grant money passed through the  
23 Montana Board of Crime Control and technical assistance was provided by the Office of Restorative Justice  
24 established by the Legislature in 2001 and placed under the Department of Justice; and

25 WHEREAS, the Office of Restorative Justice under the Department of Justice is no longer functioning  
26 and no further restorative justice grants have been applied for.

27  
28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

29  
30 **Section 1.** Section 2-15-2012, MCA, is amended to read:



1           **"2-15-2012. Intent.** The legislature recognizes that incarcerating offenders carries an extremely high  
 2 cost and may not be the most effective strategy for restoring victims, reforming offenders, and reducing  
 3 recidivism. It is the intent of 2-15-2013 to ~~create a grant program~~ HAVE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS APPLY  
 4 FOR GRANTS that will provide funds to state and local entities that establish restorative justice programs to divert  
 5 from incarceration appropriate offenders who are at low risk for violence ~~from incarceration to community~~  
 6 ~~programs based on restorative justice and to divert funds from the department of corrections to the department~~  
 7 ~~of justice to support an office of restorative justice and to support community programs based on restorative~~  
 8 ~~justice. It is also the intent that restorative justice programs be supported by federal, state, and local funds."~~

9

10           **Section 2.** Section 2-15-2013, MCA, is amended to read:

11           **"2-15-2013. ~~Office of restorative~~ Restorative justice grant program GRANTS.** (1) ~~There is an office~~  
 12 ~~of a restorative justice in the department of justice grant program administered by the Montana board of crime~~  
 13 ~~control established in 2-15-2006.~~

14           (2)(1) The purposes of the ~~office of restorative justice~~ RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ~~grant program~~ PROGRAMS  
 15 are to:

16           (a) promote the use of restorative justice practices throughout the state ~~by balancing the needs of~~  
 17 ~~victims, communities, and juvenile and adult offenders; AND~~

18           (b) provide technical assistance to local AND STATE jurisdictions and organizations interested in  
 19 implementing the principles of restorative justice; ~~and,~~

20 ~~— (c) bring additional resources~~ provide matching funds to Montana communities for that invest in  
 21 ~~restorative justice programs.~~

22           (3)(2) (a) For the purposes of 2-15-2012; ~~2-15-2014,~~ 2-15-2014, and this section, the term "restorative  
 23 justice" means ~~the philosophy of promoting and supporting practices, policies, and programs that focus on~~  
 24 ~~repairing the harm of crime, strengthening communities around the state, emphasizing accountability, and~~  
 25 ~~providing alternatives to incarceration for offenders who are at low risk for violence~~ criminal justice practices that  
 26 elevate the role of crime victims and community members in the criminal justice process, hold offenders directly  
 27 accountable to the people and communities they have harmed, restore emotional and material losses, and  
 28 provide a range of opportunities for victim, offender, and community dialogue, negotiation, and problem solving  
 29 to bring about a greater sense of justice, repair harm, provide restitution, reduce incarceration and recidivism  
 30 rates, and increase public safety.

1 ~~(b) Restorative justice is intended to improve the ability of the justice system to meet the needs of~~  
 2 ~~victims, to encourage community and victim participation in the criminal justice process, to reduce crime and~~  
 3 ~~increase the public sense of safety, to hold offenders accountable, and to provide rehabilitation and reintegration~~  
 4 ~~of offenders back into the community.~~

5 ~~(c)(4)(3) Restorative justice programs~~ A restorative justice program eligible for grant funding pursuant  
 6 to this section shall use evidence-based practices, which may include but are not limited to facilitated  
 7 victim-offender meetings, family group conferencing, sentencing circles, use of victim and community impact  
 8 statements panels, offender accountability letters, restitution programs, constructive community service, victim  
 9 awareness education, victim empathy programs, school expulsion alternatives, peer mediation, diversion  
 10 programs, and community panels.

11 ~~(4)(5)(4) Efforts of the office of restorative justice may include but are not limited to~~ The board may use  
 12 up to 10% of any money appropriated for this grant program for administrative costs and statewide coordination  
 13 THE BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL MAY RECEIVE UP TO 10% FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
 14 COSTS, including:

15 (a) providing educational programs on the philosophical framework of restorative justice;

16 (b) providing technical assistance to schools, law enforcement, youth courts, probation and parole  
 17 officers, juvenile corrections programs, and prisons in designing and implementing ~~applications of restorative~~  
 18 ~~justice~~ practices;

19 (c) ~~housing a repository for~~ developing a website with links to resources and information ~~to coordinate~~  
 20 ~~expertise in about~~ restorative justice;

21 (d) ~~servicing as a liaison between victims~~ coordinating the efforts of victim services agencies, the judiciary,  
 22 ~~and state agencies, such as the department of justice, and the department of corrections, and local agencies~~ that  
 23 are involved in criminal adult and juvenile justice efforts, including victim compensation programs;

24 (e) maintaining a statewide inventory and directory of restorative justice programs;

25 ~~(e)(f)~~ providing information to schools, local governments, law enforcement, state agencies, the judiciary,  
 26 and the legislature regarding systemic changes that may be necessary to enhance ~~further development of~~  
 27 restorative justice efforts in the state; and

28 ~~(f)(g) securing additional resources for restorative justice programs through a grant program~~  
 29 ~~administered by the board of crime control, which may be coordinated with other appropriate grant programs of~~  
 30 ~~agencies, and providing sustained funding for successful community programs~~ producing the report required in

1 subsection (8) (7).

2 (6)(5) To be eligible for a grant for a restorative justice program referred to in subsection (4) (3), the  
3 grantee shall:

4 (a) invest in the program an amount equal to at least 50% 10% of the grant amount to be provided;

5 (b) agree to collect and report program participation and evaluation data and information in a manner  
6 prescribed by the board; and

7 (c) meet any other standard criteria established by the board.

8 (7)(6) The board shall actively seek federal grant money that may be used for the purposes of this  
9 section.

10 (8)(7) The board shall produce a biennial report summarizing the grants provided, how the grant money  
11 was spent, and the program data and information reported by grant recipients.

12 (9)(8) THE BOARD SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE REGARDING THE  
13 STATUS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED IN THIS SECTION."

14

15 **Section 3.** Section 46-15-411, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"46-15-411. Payment for medical evidence -- alleged sexual offenses.** (1) The local law enforcement  
17 agency within whose jurisdiction an alleged incident of sexual intercourse without consent, sexual assault, or  
18 incest occurs shall pay for the medical examination of a victim of the alleged offense when the examination is  
19 directed by the agency or when evidence obtained by the examination is used for the investigation, prosecution,  
20 or resolution of an offense.

21 (2) (a) ~~The office of restorative justice in the~~ department of justice shall, as long as funds are available  
22 from an appropriation made for this purpose, pay for the medical examination of a victim of an alleged incident  
23 of sexual intercourse without consent, sexual assault, or incest if the cost is not the responsibility of a local law  
24 enforcement agency under subsection (1).

25 (b) In administering the provisions of subsection (2)(a), ~~the office of restorative justice~~ department shall:

26 (i) identify priorities for funding services, activities, and criteria for the receipt of program funds;

27 (ii) monitor the expenditure of funds by organizations receiving funds under this section;

28 (iii) evaluate the effectiveness of services and activities under this section; and

29 (iv) adopt rules necessary to implement this subsection (2).

30 (3) This section does not require a law enforcement agency or the state to pay any costs of treatment

1 for injuries resulting from the alleged offense."

2

3 ~~NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FUND CREATED -- SOURCE OF FUNDING -- USE OF FUND.~~

4 ~~(1) THERE IS AN ACCOUNT IN THE STATE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ESTABLISHED BY 17-2-102 TO BE KNOWN AS THE~~  
5 ~~RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FUND.~~

6 ~~(2) THERE MUST BE DEPOSITED IN THE ACCOUNT:~~

7 ~~(A) MONEY RECEIVED FROM LEGISLATIVE ALLOCATIONS;~~

8 ~~(B) A TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM A STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF 2-15-2013;~~

9 ~~(C) A GIFT, DONATION, GRANT, LEGACY, BEQUEST, OR DEVISE MADE FOR THE PURPOSES OF 2-15-2013; AND~~

10 ~~(D) MONEY RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING 46-15-411(2).~~

11 ~~(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)(D), THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO PROVIDE GRANTS FOR~~  
12 ~~RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED IN 2-15-2013 TO COMMUNITY-BASED, INCLUDING FAITH-BASED,~~  
13 ~~ORGANIZATIONS.~~

14

15 ~~NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. Repealer.~~ The following section of the Montana Code Annotated is  
16 ~~repealed:~~

17 ~~2-15-2014. Restorative justice fund created -- source of funding -- use of fund.~~

18

19 ~~NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. Appropriation.~~ There is appropriated from the general fund for the  
20 ~~biennium beginning July 1, 2013, \$200,000 to the Montana board of crime control for the purposes of funding the~~  
21 ~~grant program established in 2-15-2013.~~

22

23 ~~NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. CODIFICATION INSTRUCTION. [SECTION 4] IS INTENDED TO BE CODIFIED AS AN~~  
24 ~~INTEGRAL PART OF TITLE 2, CHAPTER 15, PART 20, AND THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 2, CHAPTER 15, PART 20, APPLY TO~~  
25 ~~[SECTION 4].~~

26

27 ~~NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. COORDINATION INSTRUCTION. IF BOTH HOUSE BILL NO. 2 AND [THIS ACT] ARE~~  
28 ~~PASSED AND APPROVED, THEN:~~

29 ~~(1) THE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IN HOUSE BILL NO. 2 IS~~  
30 ~~DECREASED BY \$200,000 FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015; AND~~

1 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (2) THE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR THE MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL FOR THE PURPOSE OF~~  
2 ~~FUNDING THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN 2-15-2013 IS INCREASED BY \$200,000 FOR THE~~  
3 ~~BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015.~~

4  
5 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date DATES DATE. ~~[This act] (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN~~  
6 ~~SUBSECTION (2), [THIS ACT] [THIS ACT]~~ is effective July 1, 2013.

7 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (2) [SECTION 4] IS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.~~

8

9 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. TERMINATION. ~~[SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 3]~~ TERMINATE JULY 1, 2017.

10

- END -