

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 219

2 INTRODUCED BY J. ESSMANN

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT MAKING IT A FELONY OFFENSE FOR CERTAIN HIGH-RISK
5 SEXUAL OFFENDERS TO RESIDE, WORK, OR TRAVEL WITHIN CERTAIN GEOGRAPHICALLY
6 RESTRICTED AREAS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AMENDING SECTIONS
7 46-18-255 AND 46-23-520, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE
8 APPLICABILITY DATE."

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

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Geographic restrictions applicable to high-risk sexual offenders. (1)**

13 A high-risk sexual offender as provided in this section may not:

14 (a) establish a residence within 300 feet of a school, day-care facility, playground, developed or improved
15 park, athletic field or facility that primarily serves minors, or business or facility having a principal purpose of
16 caring for, educating, or entertaining minors. This subsection (1)(a) does not apply if the residence was
17 established on or before [the effective date of this act].

18 (b) establish a residence or any other living accommodation in a place where a minor resides, except
19 that the offender may reside with a minor if the offender is the parent, grandparent, or stepparent of the minor
20 unless:

21 (i) the offender's parental rights were terminated or are in the process of being terminated as provided
22 by law;

23 (ii) the offender was convicted of a sexual offense in which any of the offender's minor children,
24 grandchildren, or stepchildren were the victim; or

25 (iii) the offender was convicted of a sexual offense in which a minor was the victim and the minor resided
26 with the offender at the time of the offense;

27 (c) knowingly make any visual or audible sexually suggestive or obscene gesture, sound, or
28 communication at or to a former victim or a member of the victim's immediate family;

29 (d) knowingly come within 300 feet of a former victim of the offender without the prior written permission
30 of the victim or the victim's legal guardian;

1 (e) accept, maintain, or carry on regular employment at or within 300 feet of a school, day-care facility,
2 playground, developed or improved park, athletic field or facility that primarily serves minors, or business or facility
3 having a principal purpose of caring for, educating, or entertaining minors.

4 (2) A high-risk sexual offender who knowingly violates a provision of this section is guilty of a felony and
5 upon conviction shall be punished as provided in 46-18-213.

6 (3) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

7 (a) "Day-care facility" has the meaning provided in 52-2-703.

8 (b) "High-risk sexual offender" means a person who is designated as a sexually violent predator under
9 46-23-509 and has committed a sexual offense against a victim 12 years of age or younger.

10 (c) "Minor" means a person under 18 years of age.

11 (d) "Regular employment" means employment for which a sexual offender has a reasonable expectation,
12 as determined by the department of corrections, of employment for longer than 90 days.

13 (e) "Sexual offense" has the meaning provided in 46-23-502.

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15 **Section 2.** Section 46-18-255, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"46-18-255. Sentence upon conviction -- restriction on employment and residency.** (1) A judge
17 sentencing a person upon conviction of a sexual or violent offense shall, as a condition to probation, parole, or
18 deferment or suspension of sentence, impose upon the defendant reasonable employment or occupational
19 prohibitions and restrictions designed to protect the class or classes of persons containing the likely victims of
20 further offenses by the defendant.

21 (2) In addition to any restriction on employment imposed under subsection (1), a judge sentencing a
22 person convicted of a sexual offense involving a minor and designated as a level 3 offender under 46-23-509
23 shall, as a condition to probation, parole, or deferment or suspension of sentence, impose upon the defendant
24 restrictions on the defendant's residency in the proximity of a private or public elementary or high school,
25 preschool as defined in 20-5-402, licensed day-care center, church, or park maintained by a city, town, or county.

26 (3) Restrictions imposed pursuant to this section must be compatible with the restrictions provided for
27 in [section 1]."

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29 **Section 3.** Section 46-23-520, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"46-23-520. Sexual or violent offender community education curriculum.** (1) The department of

1 justice shall develop a statewide community education curriculum regarding release of sexual or violent offenders
2 into a community.

3 (2) The curriculum developed under subsection (1) must contain information:

4 (a) for communities and neighborhoods regarding the provisions of this part as it relates to sexual or
5 violent offenders, including the rights of residents of a community into which a sexual or violent offender is
6 released and the duties and roles under this part of the department, law enforcement agencies, and the offender;
7 and

8 (b) for families and children regarding personal safety, including potential warning signs that may help
9 to avoid victimization; and

10 (c) for communities, neighborhoods, families, and children regarding the restrictions imposed by [section
11 1].

12 (3) The curriculum developed under this section must be made available to law enforcement agencies,
13 school districts, local governments, and other entities determined by the department of justice to be in a position
14 to educate the public on the subject of the release of a sexual or violent offender into a community. The
15 curriculum may be disseminated by any appropriate means, written or electronic, including by the internet."

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17 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
18 integral part of Title 45, chapter 5, part 5, and the provisions of Title 45, chapter 5, part 5, apply to [section 1].

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20 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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22 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Retroactive applicability.** Except as provided in [section 1(1)(a)], [this act]
23 applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to sexually violent predators who have been convicted of a
24 sexual offense against a victim 12 years of age or younger on or before [the effective date of this act].

25 - END -