

HOUSE BILL NO. 278

INTRODUCED BY M. REGIER

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING SENTENCING JUDGES TO PLACE OFFENDERS IN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT; AMENDING SECTION 46-18-201, MCA; AND PROVIDING 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) (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 impose a sentence that may include:

- (i) a fine as provided by law for the offense;
- (ii) payment of costs, as provided in 46-18-232, or payment of costs of assigned counsel as provided in 46-8-113;
- (iii) a term of incarceration, as provided in Title 45 for the offense, at a county detention center or at a



1 state prison to be designated by the department of corrections;

2 (iv) commitment of:

3 (A) an offender not referred to in subsection (3)(a)(iv)(B) to the department of corrections, with a
4 recommendation for placement in an appropriate correctional facility or program; however, all but the first 5 years
5 of the commitment to the department of corrections must be suspended, except as provided in 45-5-503(4),
6 45-5-507(5), 45-5-601(3), 45-5-602(3), 45-5-603(2)(b), and 45-5-625(4); or

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

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

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

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

18 (viii) any combination of subsections (2) and (3)(a)(i) through (3)(a)(vii).

19 (b) A court may permit a part or all of a fine to be satisfied by a donation of food to a food bank program.

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

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

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

26 (c) conditions for probation;

27 (d) payment of the costs of confinement;

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

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

30 (g) payment of costs of assigned counsel as provided in 46-8-113;

- 1 (h) with the approval of the facility or program, an order that the offender be placed in a community
 2 corrections facility or program as provided in 53-30-321;
- 3 (i) with the approval of the prerelease center or prerelease program and confirmation by the department
 4 of corrections that space is available, an order that the offender be placed in a prerelease center or prerelease
 5 program for a period not to exceed 1 year;
- 6 (j) community service;
- 7 (k) home arrest as provided in Title 46, chapter 18, part 10;
- 8 (l) payment of expenses for use of a judge pro tempore or special master as provided in 3-5-116;
- 9 (m) with the approval of the department of corrections and with a signed statement from an offender that
 10 the offender's participation in the boot camp incarceration program is voluntary, an order that the offender
 11 complete the boot camp incarceration program established pursuant to 53-30-403;
- 12 (n) participation in a day reporting program provided for in 53-1-203;
- 13 (o) participation in the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program provided for in Title 44, chapter 4, part
 14 12, for a violation of 61-8-465, a second or subsequent violation of 61-8-401, 61-8-406, or 61-8-411, or a second
 15 or subsequent violation of any other statute that imposes a jail penalty of 6 months or more if the abuse of alcohol
 16 or dangerous drugs was a contributing factor in the commission of the crime or for a violation of any statute
 17 involving domestic abuse or the abuse or neglect of a minor if the abuse of alcohol or dangerous drugs was a
 18 contributing factor in the commission of the crime regardless of whether the charge or conviction was for a first,
 19 second, or subsequent violation of the statute;
- 20 (p) participation in a restorative justice program approved by court order and payment of a participation
 21 fee of up to \$150 for program expenses if the program agrees to accept the offender;
- 22 (q) any other reasonable restrictions or conditions considered necessary for rehabilitation or for the
 23 protection of the victim or society; ~~or~~
- 24 (r) with approval of the program and confirmation by the department of corrections that space is
 25 available, an order that the offender be placed in a residential treatment program; or
- 26 ~~(r)(s)~~ (s) any combination of the restrictions or conditions listed in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(q) this
 27 subsection (4).
- 28 (5) In addition to any other penalties imposed, if a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a
 29 verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere and the sentencing judge finds that a victim, as defined in
 30 46-18-243, has sustained a pecuniary loss, the sentencing judge shall, as part of the sentence, require payment

1 of full restitution to the victim, as provided in 46-18-241 through 46-18-249, whether or not any part of the
2 sentence is deferred or suspended.

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

7 (7) In imposing a sentence on an offender convicted of a sexual or violent offense, as defined in
8 46-23-502, the sentencing judge may not waive the registration requirement provided in Title 46, chapter 23, part
9 5.

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

12 (9) As used in this section, "dangerous drug" has the meaning provided in 50-32-101."
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14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Applicability. [This act] applies to offenders who are sentenced on or after
15 [the effective date of this act].

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