

Legislative Update

HB 2 Appropriations for Commission on Sentencing Legislation

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for the Law and Justice Interim Committee
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Background

The Commission on Sentencing (Commission) met during the 2015-2016 interim to conduct a broad study of Montana's criminal-justice system and practices. The Commission forwarded 12 bills to the 2017 Legislature for its consideration; of those 12, nine were enacted. Several of the bills created new programs or responsibilities for existing agencies or the Judicial Branch.

While only one of the nine bills contained an appropriation¹, many of the requirements of the Commission legislation were supported by appropriations in House Bill No. 2 (HB 2). A separate bill, House Bill No. 650, transferred \$2,970,000 from the consumer protection state special revenue account administered by the Department of Justice to the general fund. The money was then appropriated in HB 2 to support the commission bills. All of the appropriations were designated as one time only.

The following table links the Commission bill number with a description of the program and the amount of the HB 2 appropriation.

Recipient	Purpose/Responsibility	FY 2018	FY 2019	Bill #
Judiciary	Develop and administer a pretrial program for felony defendants	\$780,000	\$780,000	SB 59
Department of Corrections (Director's Office)	Sentencing commission implementation accountability	\$100,000	\$100,000	SB 59
Department of Corrections (Probation & Parole)	Presentence investigations	\$360,000	\$360,000	SB 60
Board of Pardons and Parole	Revise Board of Pardons and Parole (make members full-time, reduce to 5 members)	\$29,878	\$59,755	SB 64
Crime Control Division (Board of Crime Control)	Supportive housing grant program	\$200,000	\$200,000	SB 65

¹ Senate Bill No. 59 contained an appropriation of \$28,000 to the Department of Corrections to fund the oversight council created in that bill.