

1 **** BILL NO. ****
2 INTRODUCED BY ****
3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****
4

5 **SJ19-4 - A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY RELATED**
6 **TO REMOVAL OF TIER 1 OFFENDERS; AMENDING SECTION 46-23-506, MCA."**

7
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
9

10 **Section 1.** Section 46-23-506, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"46-23-506. Duration of registration.** (1) A sexual offender required to register under this part shall
12 register for the remainder of the offender's life, except as provided in subsection (3) or during a period of time
13 during which the offender is in prison.

14 (2) A violent offender required to register under this part shall register:

15 (a) for the 10 years following release from confinement or, if not confined following sentencing, for the
16 10 years following the conclusion of the sentencing hearing, but the offender is not relieved of the duty to
17 register until a petition is granted under subsection (3)(a); or

18 (b) if convicted during the 10-year period provided in subsection (2)(a) of failing to register or keep
19 registration current or of a felony, for the remainder of the offender's life unless relieved of the duty to register
20 as provided in subsection (3)(b).

21 (3) (a) An offender required to register for 10 years under subsection (2)(a) may, after the 10 years
22 have passed, petition the sentencing court or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender
23 resides for an order relieving the offender of the duty to register. The petition must be served on the county
24 attorney in the county where the petition is filed. The petition must be granted if the defendant has not been
25 convicted under subsection (2)(b).

26 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5), at any time after ~~10 years of registration for a level 1 sexual~~
27 ~~offender and at any time after~~ 25 years of registration for a level 2 sexual offender, an the offender may petition
28 the sentencing court or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender resides for an order

1 relieving the offender of the duty to register. The petition must be served on the county attorney in the county
2 where the petition is filed. Prior to a hearing on the petition, the county attorney shall mail a copy of the petition
3 to the victim of the last offense for which the offender was convicted if the victim's address is reasonably
4 available. The court shall consider any written or oral statements of the victim. The court may grant the petition
5 upon finding that:

- 6 (i) the offender has remained a law-abiding citizen; and
- 7 (ii) continued registration is not necessary for public protection and that relief from registration is in the
8 best interests of society.

9 (c)(i) Except as provided in subsections (3)(c)(ii) or (5), after 3 years of registration for a level 1 sexual
10 offender, the offender is relieved of the duty to register and information about the offender may not be
11 disseminated to the public.

12 (ii) If a level 1 sexual offender is convicted during the 3-year period provided in subsection (3)(c)(i) of
13 failing to register or keep registration current or of a felony, the offender is not relieved of the duty to register.
14 Except as provided in subsection (5), at any time after 10 years of registration, the level 1 sexual offender may
15 petition a sentencing court or district court for relief from registration using the process described in subsection
16 (3)(b).

17 (4) The offender may move that all or part of the proceedings in a hearing under subsection (3) be
18 closed to the public, or the judge may close them on the judge's own motion. If a proceeding under subsection
19 (3)(b) is closed to the public, the judge shall permit a victim of the offense to be present unless the judge
20 determines that exclusion of the victim is necessary to protect the offender's right of privacy or the safety of the
21 victim. If the victim is present, the judge, at the victim's request, shall permit the presence of an individual to
22 provide support to the victim unless the judge determines that exclusion of the individual is necessary to protect
23 the offender's right to privacy.

24 (5) Subsection (3) does not apply to an offender who was convicted of:

25 (a) a violation of 45-5-503 if:

26 (i) the victim was compelled to submit by force, as defined in 45-5-501, against the victim or another;

27 or

28 (ii) at the time the offense occurred, the victim was under 12 years of age;

1 (b) a violation of 45-5-507 if at the time the offense occurred the victim was under 12 years of age and
2 the offender was 3 or more years older than the victim;

3 (c) a second or subsequent sexual offense that requires registration; or

4 (d) a sexual offense and was designated as a sexually violent predator under 46-23-509."

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