

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

65th Montana Legislature

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

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Legislative Update

HB 2 Appropriations for Commission on Sentencing Legislation Prepared by Rachel Weiss with fiscal updates by Scot Conrady

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).

Recipient	Purpose/ Responsibility	FY 2018	Expended	Bill #
Judiciary	Develop and administer a pretrial program for felony defendants	\$780,000	\$49,221	SB 59
Department of Corrections (Director's Office)	Sentencing commission implementation accountability	\$100,000	\$0	SB 59
Department of Corrections (Probation & Parole)	Presentence investigations	\$360,000	\$0	SB 60
Board of Pardons and Parole	Revise Board of Pardons and Parole (make	\$29,878	\$0	SB 64

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 - \$464 of that appropriation has been expended to date.

	members full- time, reduce to 5 members)			
Crime Control Division (Board of Crime Control)	Supportive housing grant program	\$200,000	\$0	SB 65