

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2526

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBERTS.

6223H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 217.760 and 558.019, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to prison terms.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 217.760 and 558.019, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 217.760 and 558.019, to read as follows:

217.760. 1. In all felony cases and class A misdemeanor cases, the basis of which misdemeanor cases are contained in chapters 565 and 566 and section 577.023, at the request of a circuit judge of any circuit court, the board shall assign one or more state probation and parole officers to make an investigation of the person convicted of the crime or offense before sentence is imposed. In all felony cases in which the recommended sentence established by the sentencing advisory commission pursuant to subsection ~~[6]~~ 7 of section 558.019 includes probation but the recommendation of the prosecuting attorney or circuit attorney does not include probation, the board of probation and parole shall, prior to sentencing, provide the judge with a report on available alternatives to incarceration. If a presentence investigation report is completed then the available alternatives shall be included in the presentence investigation report.

2. The report of the presentence investigation or preparole investigation shall contain any prior criminal record of the defendant and such information about his or her characteristics, his or her financial condition, his or her social history, the circumstances affecting his or her behavior as may be helpful in imposing sentence or in granting probation or in the correctional treatment of the defendant, information concerning the impact of the crime upon the victim, the recommended sentence established by the sentencing advisory commission and available alternatives to incarceration including opportunities for restorative justice, as well as a

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 recommendation by the probation and parole officer. The officer shall secure such other
19 information as may be required by the court and, whenever it is practicable and needed, such
20 investigation shall include a physical and mental examination of the defendant.

558.019. 1. This section shall not be construed to affect the powers of the governor
2 under Article IV, Section 7, of the Missouri Constitution. This statute shall not affect those
3 provisions of section 565.020, section 566.125, or section 571.015, which set minimum terms
4 of sentences, or the provisions of section 559.115, relating to probation.

5 2. The provisions of subsections 2 to ~~5~~ 6 of this section shall be applicable to all classes
6 of felonies except those set forth in chapter 579, or in chapter 195 prior to January 1, 2017, and
7 those otherwise excluded in subsection 1 of this section. For the purposes of this section, "prison
8 commitment" means and is the receipt by the department of corrections of an offender after
9 sentencing. For purposes of this section, prior prison commitments to the department of
10 corrections shall not include an offender's first incarceration prior to release on probation under
11 section 217.362 or 559.115. Other provisions of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, any
12 offender who has been found guilty of a felony other than a dangerous felony as defined in
13 section 556.061 and is committed to the department of corrections ~~shall~~ **may** be required to
14 serve the following minimum prison terms:

15 (1) If the offender has one previous prison commitment to the department of corrections
16 for a felony offense, the **department may require the offender to serve a** minimum prison term
17 ~~[which the offender must serve shall be]~~ **of** forty percent of his or her sentence or until the
18 offender attains seventy years of age, and has served at least thirty percent of the sentence
19 imposed, whichever occurs first;

20 (2) If the offender has two previous prison commitments to the department of corrections
21 for felonies unrelated to the present offense, the **department may require the offender to serve**
22 **a** minimum prison term ~~[which the offender must serve shall be]~~ **of** fifty percent of his or her
23 sentence or until the offender attains seventy years of age, and has served at least forty percent
24 of the sentence imposed, whichever occurs first;

25 (3) If the offender has three or more previous prison commitments to the department of
26 corrections for felonies unrelated to the present offense, the minimum prison term which the
27 offender must serve shall be eighty percent of his or her sentence or until the offender attains
28 seventy years of age, and has served at least forty percent of the sentence imposed, whichever
29 occurs first.

30 3. Other provisions of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, any offender who has
31 been found guilty of a dangerous felony as defined in section 556.061 and is committed to the
32 department of corrections ~~shall~~ **may** be required to serve a minimum prison term of eighty-five

33 percent of the sentence imposed by the court or until the offender attains seventy years of age,
34 and has served at least forty percent of the sentence imposed, whichever occurs first.

35 4. For the purpose of determining the minimum prison term to be served, the following
36 calculations shall apply:

37 (1) A sentence of life shall be calculated to be thirty years;

38 (2) Any sentence either alone or in the aggregate with other consecutive sentences for
39 offenses committed at or near the same time which is over seventy-five years shall be calculated
40 to be seventy-five years.

41 5. **(1) Any person, except for a person who was found guilty of first degree murder**
42 **or of any sex offense under chapter 566, meeting the following qualifications shall be**
43 **eligible for a parole hearing at a time set by the court:**

44 **(a) There was no heinous motive involved in the crime;**

45 **(b) The person is capable of rehabilitation;**

46 **(c) The person has been a model prisoner; and**

47 **(d) The crime did not involve physical harm or the threat of violence to another**
48 **person.**

49 **(2) For purposes of this subsection, "heinous" means any crime that is hateful or**
50 **shockingly evil.**

51 6. For purposes of this section, the term "minimum prison term" shall mean time
52 required to be served by the offender before he or she is eligible for parole, conditional release
53 or other early release by the department of corrections.

54 ~~[6-]~~ 7. (1) A sentencing advisory commission is hereby created to consist of eleven
55 members. One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the house. One member shall be
56 appointed by the president pro tem of the senate. One member shall be the director of the
57 department of corrections. Six members shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the
58 governor from among the following: the public defender commission; private citizens; a private
59 member of the Missouri Bar; the board of probation and parole; and a prosecutor. Two members
60 shall be appointed by the supreme court, one from a metropolitan area and one from a rural area.
61 All members shall be appointed to a four-year term. All members of the sentencing commission
62 appointed prior to August 28, 1994, shall continue to serve on the sentencing advisory
63 commission at the pleasure of the governor.

64 (2) The commission shall study sentencing practices in the circuit courts throughout the
65 state for the purpose of determining whether and to what extent disparities exist among the
66 various circuit courts with respect to the length of sentences imposed and the use of probation
67 for offenders convicted of the same or similar offenses and with similar criminal histories. The
68 commission shall also study and examine whether and to what extent sentencing disparity among

69 economic and social classes exists in relation to the sentence of death and if so, the reasons
70 therefor, if sentences are comparable to other states, if the length of the sentence is appropriate,
71 and the rate of rehabilitation based on sentence. It shall compile statistics, examine cases, draw
72 conclusions, and perform other duties relevant to the research and investigation of disparities in
73 death penalty sentencing among economic and social classes.

74 (3) The commission shall study alternative sentences, prison work programs, work
75 release, home-based incarceration, probation and parole options, and any other programs and
76 report the feasibility of these options in Missouri.

77 (4) The governor shall select a chairperson who shall call meetings of the commission
78 as required or permitted pursuant to the purpose of the sentencing commission.

79 (5) The members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their duties on
80 the commission, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
81 performance of these duties and for which they are not reimbursed by reason of their other paid
82 positions.

83 (6) The circuit and associate circuit courts of this state, the office of the state courts
84 administrator, the department of public safety, and the department of corrections shall cooperate
85 with the commission by providing information or access to information needed by the
86 commission. The office of the state courts administrator will provide needed staffing resources.

87 ~~[7-]~~ **8.** Courts shall retain discretion to lower or exceed the sentence recommended by
88 the commission as otherwise allowable by law, and to order restorative justice methods, when
89 applicable.

90 ~~[8-]~~ **9.** If the imposition or execution of a sentence is suspended, the court may order any
91 or all of the following restorative justice methods, or any other method that the court finds just
92 or appropriate:

93 (1) Restitution to any victim or a statutorily created fund for costs incurred as a result
94 of the offender's actions;

95 (2) Offender treatment programs;

96 (3) Mandatory community service;

97 (4) Work release programs in local facilities; and

98 (5) Community-based residential and nonresidential programs.

99 ~~[9-]~~ **10.** The provisions of this section shall apply only to offenses occurring on or after
100 August 28, 2003.

101 ~~[10-]~~ **11.** Pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 8 of this section, the court may order
102 the assessment and payment of a designated amount of restitution to a county law enforcement
103 restitution fund established by the county commission pursuant to section 50.565. Such
104 contribution shall not exceed three hundred dollars for any charged offense. Any restitution

105 moneys deposited into the county law enforcement restitution fund pursuant to this section shall
106 only be expended pursuant to the provisions of section 50.565.

107 ~~[11.]~~ **12.** A judge may order payment to a restitution fund only if such fund had been
108 created by ordinance or resolution of a county of the state of Missouri prior to sentencing. A
109 judge shall not have any direct supervisory authority or administrative control over any fund to
110 which the judge is ordering a person to make payment.

111 ~~[12.]~~ **13.** A person who fails to make a payment to a county law enforcement restitution
112 fund may not have his or her probation revoked solely for failing to make such payment unless
113 the judge, after evidentiary hearing, makes a finding supported by a preponderance of the
114 evidence that the person either willfully refused to make the payment or that the person willfully,
115 intentionally, and purposefully failed to make sufficient bona fide efforts to acquire the resources
116 to pay.

117 ~~[13.]~~ **14.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow the sentencing advisory
118 commission to issue recommended sentences in specific cases pending in the courts of this state.

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