

HOUSE BILL NO. 70

INTRODUCED BY M. MACDONALD

BY REQUEST OF THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO MAKE A VICTIM IMPACT PANEL A COMPONENT OF COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL PROGRAMMING FOR INMATES OF SPECIFIED FACILITIES; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, the Law and Justice Interim Committee examined the efficacy of restorative justice principles and practices within the criminal justice system as requested by Senate Joint Resolution No. 29 from the 2011 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the Committee found that victim impact panels incorporated into the cognitive-behavioral treatment program for trainees in the boot camp incarceration program was considered the most powerful component of the treatment program and the most effective tool for reducing the number of offenders who reoffend; and

WHEREAS, according to the testimony of the boot camp superintendent, since the boot camp began using victim impact panels, it has seen a 50% reduction in the number of boot camp graduates who have reoffended.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Correctional victim impact panels. The department of corrections shall coordinate with victim services programs, faith-based programs, church volunteers, and other victim advocates to make use of victim impact panels as a component of the basic cognitive-behavioral treatment program for inmates at the Montana state prison, the Montana women's prison, the boot camp incarceration program under Title 53, chapter 30, part 4, a regional correctional facility under Title 53, chapter 30, part 5, and a private correctional facility under Title 53, chapter 30, part 6.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of corrections \$100,000 in each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, for the purposes of

1 [section 1].

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
4 integral part of Title 53, chapter 30, part 1, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 30, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

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