

PERSISTENT FELONY OFFENDER

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting. (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)) The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The links below open to the introduced bill. The other information is available by selecting the Additional Bill Links hyperlink at the top of the bill and then the link “Status of this Bill.”

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: The topic of how to define and sentence a persistent felony offender was discussed by the 2015-2016 Commission on Sentencing. The 2017 Legislature enacted House Bill No. 133, which, among other things, adjusted the definition of “persistent felony offender” in [section 46-1-202, MCA](#), to be “an offender who has previously been convicted of two separate felonies and who is presently being sentenced for a third felony committed on a different occasion than either of the first two felonies. At least one of the three felonies must be a sexual offense or a violent offense as those terms are defined in 46-23-502. An offender is considered to have previously been convicted of two separate felonies if:

- (a) the two previous felonies were for offenses that were committed in this state or any other jurisdiction for which a sentence of imprisonment in excess of 1 year could have been imposed;
- (b) less than 5 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and either:
 - (i) the most recent of the two felony convictions; or
 - (ii) the offender's release on parole or otherwise from prison or other commitment imposed as a result of a previous felony conviction; and
- (c) the offender has not been pardoned on the ground of innocence and the conviction has not been set aside at a postconviction hearing.”

Legislative Services Division Materials: [Materials from the Statute Review Subcommittee](#) of the 2015-2016 Commission on Sentencing (including a legislative history of the persistent felony offender statutes.

Other Materials: [Persistent felony offender by sentence type statistics](#) – Department of Corrections and the Council of State Governments Justice Center

Introduced Legislation

2017

[House Bill No. 133](#) -- Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO SENTENCING; REVISING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; REVISING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION LAWS; EXPANDING THE TYPES OF OFFENSES FOR WHICH FINGERPRINTS MUST BE SENT TO THE STATE REPOSITORY; REVISING WHEN CERTAIN IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION MUST BE RETURNED TO AN INDIVIDUAL; CLARIFYING THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT A CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT CHARGE; CLARIFYING THAT THE YOUTH COURT HAS JURISDICTION OF CHARGES OF ASSAULT WITH A BODILY FLUID WHEN COMMITTED BY A MINOR; LIMITING EXCEPTIONS TO MANDATORY MINIMUMS FOR CERTAIN SEXUAL OFFENSES WHEN VICTIM IS 12 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER; REVISING THE MANDATORY MINIMUMS FOR CERTAIN SEXUAL OFFENSES WHEN VICTIM IS 12 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER; CREATING A TIERED SENTENCING STRUCTURE FOR THEFT-BASED CRIMES; REDUCING PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS; REDUCING PENALTIES FOR MOST DRUG OFFENSES; REVISING THE PERSISTENT FELONY OFFENDER DESIGNATION; REVISING THE REQUIREMENT FOR A CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY EDUCATION COURSE; REVISING CERTAIN DRIVING OFFENSES; REVISING DUI PENALTIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 41-5-206, 44-5-202, 45-2-101, 45-5-207, 45-5-214, 45-5-503, 45-5-507, 45-5-625, 45-6-301, 45-6-309, 45-6-316, 45-6-317, 45-6-325, 45-6-332, 45-8-101, 45-8-102, 45-8-111, 45-9-101, 45-9-102, 45-9-103, 45-9-110, 46-1-202, 46-18-201, 46-18-204, 46-18-205, 46-18-222, 46-18-231, 46-18-502, 53-1-203, 61-5-102, 61-5-208, 61-5-212, 61-6-302, 61-6-304, 61-8-407, 61-8-422, 61-8-731, AND 61-8-732, MCA; REPEALING SECTIONS 45-9-208, 45-10-108, AND 46-18-501, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE.