1	SENATE BILL NO. 429		
2	INTRODUCED BY J. ESP		
3			
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO DETERMINATION		
5	AND RESTORATION OF FITNESS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS; REVISING WHAT ACTS OR OMISSIONS		
6	MAY BE CONTEMPT; PROVIDING COMMITMENT PROCEDURES FOR EXAMINATION; PROVIDING		
7	PROCEDURES FOR THE INVOLUNTARY ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION; REVISING PROVISIONS		
8	FOR PAYMENT OF COMMITMENT EXPENSES; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING		
9	SECTIONS 3-1-501, 3-5-901, 3-10-402, 3-11-303, 46-14-202, 46-14-206, AND 46-14-221, MCA; AND		
10	PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."		
11			
12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:		
13			
14	Section 1. Section 3-1-501, MCA, is amended to read:		
15	"3-1-501. What acts or omissions are contempts civil and criminal contempt. (1) The following		
16	acts or omissions in respect to a court of justice or proceedings in a court of justice are contempts of the		
17	authority of the court:		
18	(a) disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior toward the judge while holding the court tending		
19	to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;		
20	(b) a breach of the peace, boisterous conduct, or violent disturbance tending to interrupt the due		
21	course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;		
22	(c) misbehavior in office or other willful neglect or violation of duty by an attorney, counsel, clerk,		
23	sheriff, coroner, or other person appointed or elected to perform a judicial or ministerial service;		
24	(d) deceit or abuse of the process or proceedings of the court by a party to an action or special		
25	proceeding;		
26	(e) disobedience of any lawful judgment, order, or process of the court;		
27	(f) assuming to be an officer, attorney, or counsel of a court and acting as that individual without		
28	authority;		



69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 (g) rescuing any person or property in the custody of an officer by virtue of an order or process of 2 the court; 3 (h) unlawfully detaining a witness or party to an action while going to, remaining at, or returning 4 from the court where the action is on the calendar for trial; 5 (i) any other unlawful interference with the process or proceedings of a court; 6 (j) disobedience of a subpoena duly served or refusing to be sworn or answer as a witness; 7 when summoned as a juror in a court, neglecting to attend or serve as a juror or improperly (k) 8 conversing with a party to an action to be tried at the court or with any other person in relation to the merits of 9 the action or receiving a communication from a party or other person in respect to it without immediately 10 disclosing the communication to the court; disobedience by a lower tribunal, magistrate, or officer of the lawful judgment, order, or process 11 **(l)** 12 of a superior court or proceeding in an action or special proceeding contrary to law after the action or special 13 proceeding is removed from the jurisdiction of the lower tribunal, magistrate, or officer. 14 (2) Disobedience of the lawful orders or process of a judicial officer is also a contempt of the 15 authority of the officer. 16 Refusal or inability to admit a defendant, respondent, patient, or person who has been ordered 17 to be committed, transferred, transported, or sentenced to or directed to be detained at the Montana state 18 hospital or the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services related to a civil or 19 criminal proceeding is not contempt if: 20 a bed is not available for the defendant, respondent, patient, or person; 21 admission of the defendant, respondent, patient, or person will cause the census at the hospital (b) 22 to exceed its licensed capacity; or 23 (c) the information and records requested by the department or hospital are not received, 24 including: 25 physical and psychiatric health information sufficient to: (i) evaluate the immediate treatment needs and appropriate placement of the defendant, 26 (A) 27 respondent, patient, or person, including the availability of less restrictive medically appropriate facilities; and 28 coordinate care with the professional person, county attorney, court, or the person or entity (B)



2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 <u>transporting the respondent during the admission process;</u>

(ii) documentation of legal authority to admit the respondent or patient; and

(iii) other information and records as required by administrative rule.

(3)(4) A contempt may be either civil or criminal. A contempt is civil if the sanction imposed seeks to force the contemnor's compliance with a court order. A contempt is criminal if the court's purpose in imposing the penalty is to punish the contemnor for a specific act and to vindicate the authority of the court. If the penalty imposed is incarceration, a fine, or both, the contempt is civil if the contemnor can end the incarceration or avoid the fine by complying with a court order and is criminal if the contemnor cannot end the incarceration or avoid the fine by complying with a court order. If the court's purpose in imposing the sanction is to attempt to compel the contemnor's performance of an act, the court shall impose the sanction under 3-1-520 and may not impose a sanction under 45-7-309.

(4)(5) A person may be found guilty of and penalized for criminal contempt by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The procedures provided in Title 46 apply to criminal contempt prosecutions, except those under 3-1-511."

15

16

17

18

19

20

**Section 2.** Section 3-5-901, MCA, is amended to read:

"3-5-901. State assumption of district court expenses. (1) There is a state-funded district court program under the judicial branch. Under this program, the office of court administrator shall fund all district court costs, except as provided in subsection (3). These costs include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) salaries and benefits for:
- (i) district court judges;
- 22 (ii) law clerks;
- 23 (iii) court reporters, as provided in 3-5-601;
- 24 (iv) juvenile probation officers, youth division offices staff, and assessment officers of the youth
- 25 court:
- 26 (v) standing masters; and
- 27 (vi) other employees of the district court;
- 28 (b) in criminal cases:



2

4

5

6

7

8

9

13

14

69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 (i) fees for transcripts of proceedings, as provided in 3-5-604;

- (ii) witness fees and necessary expenses, as provided in 46-15-116;
- 3 (iii) juror fees and necessary expenses;
  - (iv) for a psychiatric examination under 46-14-202, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses, as provided in 46-14-202(4) 46-14-202(9); and
  - (v) for commitment under 46-14-221, the cost of transporting the defendant to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services to be placed in an appropriate facility of the department of public health and human services and of transporting the defendant back for any proceedings, as costs provided in 46-14-221(5) 46-14-221(8);
- 10 (c) except as provided in 47-1-119, the district court expenses in all postconviction proceedings
  11 held pursuant to Title 46, chapter 21, and in all habeas corpus proceedings held pursuant to Title 46, chapter
  12 22, and appeals from those proceedings;
  - (d) except as provided in 47-1-119, the following expenses incurred by the state in federal habeas corpus cases that challenge the validity of a conviction or of a sentence:
- 15 (i) transcript fees;
- 16 (ii) witness fees; and
- 17 (iii) expenses for psychiatric examinations;
- 18 (e) except as provided in 47-1-119, the following expenses incurred by the state in a proceeding
  19 held pursuant to Title 41, chapter 3, part 4 or 6, that seeks temporary investigative authority of a youth,
  20 temporary legal custody of a youth, or termination of the parent-child legal relationship and permanent custody:
- (i) transcript fees;
- 22 (ii) witness fees;
  - (iii) expenses for medical and psychological evaluation of a youth or the youth's parent, guardian, or other person having physical or legal custody of the youth except for expenses for services that a person is eligible to receive under a public program that provides medical or psychological evaluation;
- 26 (iv) expenses associated with appointment of a guardian ad litem or child advocate for the youth;
- 27 and

23

24

25

28 (v) expenses associated with court-ordered alternative dispute resolution;



69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1	(f)	except as provided in 47-1-119, costs of juror and witness fees and witness expenses before a
2	grand jury;	
3	(g)	costs of the court-sanctioned educational program concerning the effects of dissolution of
4	marriage on ch	nildren, as required in 40-4-226, and expenses of education when ordered for the investigation
5	and preparatio	n of a report concerning parenting arrangements, as provided in 40-4-215(2)(a);
6	(h)	except as provided in 47-1-119, all district court expenses associated with civil jury trials if
7	similar expens	es were paid out of the district court fund or the county general fund in any previous year;
8	(i)	all other costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the district court, including
9	contract costs	for court reporters who are independent contractors; and
10	(j)	costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the youth court and youth court
11	division operat	ions pursuant to 41-5-111 and subsection (1)(a) of this section, except for those costs paid by
12	other entities in	dentified in Title 41, chapter 5.
13	(2)	If a cost is not paid directly by the office of court administrator, the county shall pay the cost
14	and the office	of court administrator shall reimburse the county within 30 days of receipt of a claim.
15	(3)	For the purposes of subsection (1), district court costs paid by the office of court administrator
16	do not include:	
17	(a)	costs for clerks of district court and employees and expenses of the offices of the clerks of
18	district court;	
19	(b)	costs of providing and maintaining district court office space; or
20	(c)	charges incurred against a county by virtue of any provision of Title 7 or 46."
21		
22	Section	on 3. Section 3-10-402, MCA, is amended to read:
23	"3-10-	<b>402. Proceedings.</b> When a contempt is committed, whether or not it is in the immediate view
24	and presence	of the justice, the procedures contained in 3-1-501(3) 3-1-501(4) and (4) (5), 3-1-511 through 3-
25	1-518, and 3-1	-520 through 3-1-523 apply."
26		
27	Section	on 4. Section 3-11-303, MCA, is amended to read:



28

"3-11-303. Contempts city judge may punish for -- procedure. (1) A city judge may punish for

2

3

4

5

6

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 contempt persons guilty of only the following acts:

(a) disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior toward the judge while holding the court tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;

- (b) a breach of the peace, boisterous conduct, or violent disturbance in the presence of the judge or in the immediate vicinity of the court held by the judge tending to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceeding;
- 7 (c) disobedience or resistance to the execution of a lawful order or process made or issued by the 8 judge;
- 9 (d) disobedience to a subpoena served or refusal to be sworn or to answer as a witness;
- 10 (e) rescuing any person or property in the custody of an officer by virtue of an order or process of 11 the court.
- 12 (2) The procedures contained in 3-1-501(3) 3-1-501(4) and (4) (5), 3-1-511 through 3-1-518, and 3-1-520 through 3-1-523 apply."

Section 5. Section 46-14-202, MCA, is amended to read:

<u>expenses.</u> (1) If the defendant or the defendant's counsel files a written motion requesting an examination or if the issue of the <u>a</u> defendant's fitness to proceed is raised by the court, <u>the</u> prosecution, <u>or the defendant</u>, or <u>if a</u> defense counsel <u>files a written motion requesting an examination of the defendant</u>, the court shall appoint at least one qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered nurse or shall request the superintendent of the Montana state hospital to designate at least one qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered nurse, who may be or include the superintendent, to examine and report upon the defendant's mental condition.

(2) <u>(a) The Except as provided in subsection (6), a court may order the defendant to be committed</u> to a hospital er, other another suitable facility, or the Montana state hospital for the purpose of the examination for a period not exceeding 60 days or a longer period that the court determines to be necessary for the purpose and may direct that a qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered nurse retained by the defendant be permitted to witness and participate in the examination.



1	(b) On commitment to the Montana state hospital, the superintendent of the hospital shall
2	designate at least one qualified psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered
3	nurse, who may be or may include the superintendent, to report on the defendant's mental condition.
4	(3) A court may not order the transfer or transport of a defendant to the Montana state hospital
5	until the facility has confirmed in writing that:
6	(a) a bed is available for the defendant;
7	(b) admission of the defendant will not cause the census at the hospital to exceed its licensed
8	capacity; and
9	(c) the information and records requested by the hospital are received, including:
10	(i) physical and psychiatric medical information sufficient to:
11	(A) evaluate the immediate treatment needs and appropriate placement of the defendant, including
12	the availability of less restrictive and medically appropriate facilities; and
13	(B) coordinate patient care with criminal justice authorities during the admission process;
14	(ii) documentation of legal authority to admit the defendant; and
15	(iii) other information and records as required by administrative rule.
16	(4) A defendant may not be transported to the Montana state hospital until the provisions of
17	subsection (3) have been fulfilled.
18	(5) The Montana state hospital may refuse to admit into its custody a defendant who has been
19	ordered to be transferred or transported to the hospital until:
20	(a) a bed is available for the defendant;
21	(b) admission of the defendant will not cause the census at the hospital to exceed its licensed bed
22	capacity;
23	(c) admission will not cause the hospital to violate any law, rule, or certification or licensing
24	provision; and
25	(d) the information and records requested under subsection (3)(c) is received by the hospital.
26	(6) A court may not order the superintendent of the Montana state hospital to designate a qualified
27	psychiatrist, licensed clinical psychologist, or advanced practice registered nurse to examine or report on the
28	defendant's mental condition unless there is no person located within the county of venue of the committing



1	court who is willing, able, or available to perform an examination.		
2	(7) Except as provided in 46-14-206(2), a court ordering an examination of a defendant under this		
3	section may not require that a report of examination include:		
4	(a) an opinion as to the capacity of the defendant to have a particular state of mind that is an		
5	element of the offense charged; or		
6	(b) an opinion as to the capacity of the defendant, because of a mental disease or disorder or		
7	development disability, to appreciate the criminality of the defendant's behavior or to conform the defendant's		
8	behavior to the requirement of the law.		
9	(3)(8) In the examination, any method may be employed that is accepted by the medical or		
10	psychological profession for the examination of those alleged to be suffering from mental disease or disorder.		
11	(4)(9) (a) The costs incurred for an examination ordered under subsection (2) must be paid as		
12	follows: must be paid by the office of the court administrator, regardless of whether the examination is done at		
13	the Montana state hospital or another facility. Costs under this subsection (9) include:		
14	(a) expenses of transporting a defendant from the place of detention to the place where the		
15	examination is performed and returning a defendant to detention;		
16	(b) personnel costs of a law enforcement agency by whom a defendant is detained;		
17	(c) housing expenses of a facility where an examination is performed; and		
18	(d) medical costs incurred by a facility while a defendant is housed at the facility, including:		
19	(i) medical care;		
20	(ii) dental care; and		
21	(iii) costs of medication.		
22	(i) if the issue of the defendant's fitness to proceed was raised by the court or the examination		
23	was requested by the prosecution, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses must be paid b		
24	the court or, in district court proceedings, by the office of court administrator, except as provided in subsection		
25	<del>(4)(a)(iv);</del>		
26	(ii) if the examination was requested by the defendant or the defendant's counsel, the cost of the		
27	examination and other associated expenses must be paid by the defendant or, if the defendant was		
28	represented by an attorney pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, by the office of		



69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

state public defender, except as provided by subsection (4)(a)(iv);

(iii) if the examination was jointly requested by the prosecution and defense counsel or the need for the examination was jointly agreed to by the prosecution and defense, the cost of the examination and other associated expenses must be divided and paid equally by the court or, in district court proceedings, by the office of court administrator, and the defendant or, if the defendant was represented by an attorney assigned pursuant to the Montana Public Defender Act, Title 47, chapter 1, by the office of state public defender, except as provided in subsection (4)(a)(iv);

- (iv) any costs for an examination performed by an employee of the department of public health and human services, any other associated expenses at a facility of the department of public health and human services, and any other associated expenses for which the legislature has made a general fund appropriation to the department of public health and human services may not be charged to the office of court administrator or the office of state public defender.
- (b) For purposes of this subsection (4), "other associated expenses" means the following costs incurred in association with the commitment to a hospital or other suitable facility for the purpose of examination, regardless of whether the examination is done at the Montana state hospital or any other facility:
- (i) the expenses of transporting the defendant from the place of detention to the place where the examination is performed and returning the defendant to detention, including personnel costs of the law enforcement agency by whom the defendant is detained;
  - (ii) housing expenses of the facility where the examination is performed; and
- 20 (iii) medical costs, including medical and dental care, including costs of medication."

**Section 6.** Section 46-14-206, MCA, is amended to read:

- **"46-14-206. Report of examination.** (1) A report of the examination <u>ordered under 46-14-202</u> must include the following:
  - (a) a description of the nature of the examination;
- 26 (b) a diagnosis of the mental condition of the defendant, including an opinion as to whether the
  27 defendant suffers from a mental disorder, as defined in 53-21-102, and may require commitment or is seriously
  28 developmentally disabled, as defined in 53-20-102; and



69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 (c) if the defendant suffers from a mental disease or disorder or developmental disability, an 2 opinion as to the defendant's capacity to understand the proceedings against the defendant and to assist in the 3 defendant's own defense;. 4 (2) After a hearing in which a defendant is determined to lack fitness to proceed, or when 5 necessary for psychiatric or psychological testimony at trial or consideration of mental disease or disorder or 6 developmental disability at sentencing, a court may direct that a report of an examination include: 7 (d)(a) when directed by the court, an opinion as to the capacity of the defendant to have a particular 8 state of mind that is an element of the offense charged; and 9 (e)(b) when directed by the court, an opinion as to the capacity of the defendant, because of a mental 10 disease or disorder or developmental disability, to appreciate the criminality of the defendant's behavior or to 11 conform the defendant's behavior to the requirement of the law. 12 (2)(3) If the examination cannot be conducted by reason of the unwillingness of the defendant to 13 participate in the examination, the report must state that fact and must include, if possible, an opinion as to 14 whether the unwillingness of the defendant was the result of the mental disease or disorder or developmental 15 disability." 16 17 Section 7. Section 46-14-221, MCA, is amended to read: 18 "46-14-221. Determination of fitness to proceed -- effect of procedure on finding of unfitness --19 expenses -- involuntary treatment -- rulemaking authority. (1) (a) The When the issue of the defendant's 20 fitness to proceed may be raised by the court, by the defendant or the defendant's counsel, or by the 21 prosecutor. When the issue is raised, and an examination of the defendant has been completed under 46-14-22 202, it the defendant's fitness must be determined by the court. 23 If neither the prosecutor nor the defendant's counsel contests the finding of the report filed 24 under 46-14-206, the court may make the determination on the basis of the report. 25 If the finding is contested, the court shall hold a hearing on the issue. If the report is received in 26 evidence upon the hearing, the parties have the right to subpoena and cross-examine the psychiatrists or licensed clinical psychologists who joined in the report and to offer evidence upon the issue. 27



(d)

28

In determining whether a defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the court shall restrict its analysis

\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*

69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 of the issues to:

(i) whether the defendant suffers from a mental disorder, as defined in 53-21-102, or is seriously developmentally disabled, as defined in 53-20-102;

- (ii) whether the defendant may require commitment; and
- (iii) if the defendant suffers from a mental disease or disorder or developmental disability, whether
  the defendant has the capacity to understand the proceedings against the defendant and to assist in the
  defendant's own defense.
  - (2) (a) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the proceeding against the defendant must be suspended, except as provided in subsection (4) (7), and the court shall commit the defendant to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services to be placed in an appropriate mental health facility, as defined in 53-21-102, or residential facility, as defined in 53-20-102, or to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services for so long as the unfitness endures or until disposition of the defendant is made pursuant to this section, whichever occurs first.
  - (b) The court may not commit the defendant to a private mental health facility or hospital without the express consent of the facility or hospital.
  - (b) The facility shall develop an individualized treatment plan to assist the defendant to gain fitness to proceed. The treatment plan may include a physician's prescription of reasonable and appropriate medication that is consistent with accepted medical standards. If the defendant refuses to comply with the treatment plan, the facility may petition the court for an order requiring compliance. The defendant has a right to a hearing on the petition. The court shall enter into the record a detailed statement of the facts upon which an order is made, and if compliance with the individualized treatment plan is ordered, the court shall also enter into the record specific findings that the state has proved an overriding justification for the order and that the treatment being ordered is medically appropriate.
  - (3) A court may not order the transfer or transport of a defendant to the Montana state hospital until the facility has confirmed in writing that:
- (a) a bed is available for the defendant;
- 27 (b) admission of the defendant will not cause the census at the hospital to exceed its licensed
  28 capacity; and



69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 (c) the information and records requested by the hospital are received, including: 2 physical and psychiatric medical information sufficient to: (i) 3 (A) evaluate the immediate treatment needs and appropriate placement of the defendant, including 4 the availability of less restrictive and medically appropriate facilities; and 5 (B) coordinate patient care with criminal justice authorities during the admission process; documentation of legal authority to admit the defendant; and 6 (ii) 7 other information and records as required by administrative rule. (iii) 8 <u>(4)</u> A defendant may not be transported to the Montana state hospital until the provisions of 9 subsection (3) have been fulfilled. 10 The Montana state hospital may refuse to admit into its custody a defendant who has been 11 ordered to be transferred or transported to the hospital until: 12 a bed is available for the defendant; (a) 13 admission of the defendant will not cause the census at the hospital to exceed its licensed bed (b) 14 capacity; 15 admission will not cause the hospital to violate any law, rule, or certification or licensing 16 provision; and 17 the information and records requested under subsection (3)(c) is received by the hospital. (d) 18 (3)(6) (a) The committing court shall, within 7 days of receiving notice from the department of public 19 health and human services to the court and county attorney that a defendant committed to the Montana state 20 hospital for a fitness evaluation under 46-14-202 or restoration to fitness under 46-14-221 has been determined 21 to be fit or restored to fitness, order the defendant to be returned to the committing county and set the matter for 22 trial. The committing court shall also, for any incarcerated defendant, within 90 days, but no sooner than 45 23 days, of ordering commitment, review the defendant's fitness to proceed custodial status related to a 24 commitment ordered under subsection (2). If the court finds that the defendant has not been admitted to an 25 appropriate mental health facility, residential facility, or to the custody of the director of the department of public 26 health and human services under subsection (2) and is still unfit to proceed and that it does not appear that the 27 defendant will become fit to proceed within the reasonably foreseeable future, because the defendant has a 28 mental disorder or mental illness, the court shall assess whether the proceeding against the defendant must be



69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

dismissed, except as provided in subsection (4) or whether alternatives to incarceration, if applicable, or to commitment are appropriate under the circumstances, including whether the involuntary administration of medication is necessary.

- (b) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed because the defendant has a mental disorder, the proceeding against the defendant must be dismissed and the prosecutor shall petition the court in the manner provided in Title 53, chapter 21, to determine the disposition of the defendant pursuant to those provisions.
- (b) (i) If, on review of the defendant's custodial status related to any commitment ordered pursuant to subsection (2), it is determined that an incarcerated defendant requires stabilization treatment, including administration of medication, the county attorney shall, within 7 days, petition the court for an order requiring compliance with stabilization treatment, including involuntary administration of medication.
- (ii) The defendant has a right to a hearing on the petition. The judge shall appoint a professional person and set a date and time for the hearing on the petition that may not be on the same day as the initial appearance and that may not exceed 5 days, including weekends and holidays, unless the fifth day falls on a weekend or holiday. The court shall enter into the record a detailed statement of the facts upon which an order is made, and if involuntary administration of medication or other stabilization treatment is ordered, the court shall also enter into the record the specific findings that the state has proved an overriding justification for the order and that the treatment being ordered is medically appropriate. The court may authorize the chief medical officer of a facility or a physician, or the chief medical officer of the department of public health and human services or a physician or advanced practice registered nurse who is under the supervision of or employed by the department of public health and human services, to be designated by the court to administer appropriate medication involuntarily.
- (c) (i) On admission to an appropriate mental health facility, residential facility, or to the custody of the director of the department of public health and human services under subsection (2), the facility shall evaluate the defendant and develop an individualized treatment plan to assist the defendant to gain or regain fitness to proceed. The treatment plan may include a physician's prescription of reasonable and appropriate medication that is consistent with accepted medical standards.
  - (ii) If the defendant refuses to comply with the treatment plan, the facility may involuntarily



69th Legislature 2025 SB 429.1

1 administer medications to treat a defendant pursuant to the determination of the facility's treatment review 2 committee and involuntary medication review board, if the following criteria are met: 3 the defendant suffers from a mental illness or mental disorder; (A) 4 (B) the defendant has been determined to lack fitness to proceed: 5 (C) the involuntary administration of medication is in the best medical interests of the defendant; the defendant is either gravely disabled or poses a likelihood of serious harm to self or others; 6 (D) 7 the facility has established a treatment review committee and an involuntary medication review (E) 8 board for the involuntary administration of psychotropic medications; and 9 the policies and procedures relating to the involuntary medication review board require 10 provision to the defendant of a notice of rights and notice of an involuntary medication hearing, an involuntary 11 medication hearing, and an appeal process. 12 The department of public health and human services shall adopt rules governing treatment 13 review and involuntary administration of medication by a mental health facility, as defined in 53-21-102, a 14 residential facility, as defined in 53-20-102, or the Montana state hospital. 15 After the initial review of the defendant's custodial status under subsection (6)(a), the court (e) 16 shall review the defendant's custodial status every 30 days or at an interval the court determines appropriate 17 under the circumstances. If on subsequent review the defendant is still unfit, it does not appear that the 18 defendant will become fit within the reasonably foreseeable future, and that alternatives to forensic commitment 19 are not appropriate under the circumstances, the court shall order the proceeding against the defendant 20 dismissed without prejudice and the prosecutor shall petition the court in the manner provided in Title 53, 21 chapter 21, to determine the disposition of the defendant pursuant to those provisions. 22 <del>(c)</del>(f) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed because the defendant has 23 a developmental disability as defined in 53-20-102, the proceeding against the defendant must be dismissed 24 and the prosecutor shall petition the court in the manner provided in Title 53, chapter 20, to determine the 25 disposition of the defendant pursuant to those provisions. 26 (4)(7) The fact that the defendant is unfit to proceed does not preclude any legal objection to the prosecution that is susceptible to fair determination prior to trial and that is made without the personal 27



participation of the defendant.

28

25	- END -
24	<u>NEW SECTION.</u> <b>Section 9. Effective date.</b> [This act] is effective on passage and approval.
23	
22	penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before [the effective date of this act].
21	NEW SECTION. Section 8. Saving clause. [This act] does not affect rights and duties that matured
20	
19	office of court administrator."
18	general fund appropriation to the department of public health and human services may not be charged to the
17	(6) The cost of care, custody, and treatment at a facility for which the legislature has made a
16	(iii) costs of medication.
15	(ii) dental care; and
14	(i) medical care;
13	(d) medical costs incurred by a facility while a defendant is housed at the facility, including:
12	(c) housing expenses of a facility where an examination is performed; and
11	(b) personnel costs of a law enforcement agency by whom a defendant is detained;
10	examination is performed and returning a defendant to detention;
9	(a) expenses of transporting a defendant from the place of detention to the place where the
8	Costs under this subsection (8) include:
7	commitment is to, or the examination or treatment is done at, the Montana state hospital or another facility.
6	ordered under this section must be paid by the office of the court administrator, regardless of whether the
5	proceedings, by the office of court administrator. The costs incurred for commitment, examination, or treatment
4	defendant at the facility, and of transporting the defendant back are payable by the court or, in district court
3	facility of the department of public health and human services, of the care, custody, and treatment of the
2	custody of the director of the department of public health and human services to be placed in an appropriate
1	(5)(8) Except as provided in subsection (6), the expenses of transporting the defendant to the

