

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 626

INTRODUCED BY B. MERCER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO DRIVING UNDER THE
5 INFLUENCE; ~~DEFINING "PRIOR OFFENSE" AND INCLUDING PENDING OFFENSES IN "PRIOR~~
6 ~~OFFENSE"; SUBSTITUTING REFERENCES TO VIOLATIONS WITH THE TERM "OFFENSE" IN CERTAIN~~
7 ~~REFERENCES; REVISING SENTENCING WHEN A PERSON HAS A PENDING OR SUBSEQUENT~~
8 ~~OFFENSE WHILE AWAITING SENTENCING ON A PRESENT OFFENSE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-~~
9 ~~1007 AND SECTION~~ 61-8-1011, MCA."

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

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13 **Section 1. Section 61-8-1007, MCA, is amended to read:**

14 **"61-8-1007. Penalty for driving under influence -- first through third offenses.** (1)(a) Except as
15 provided in subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c), a person convicted of a violation an offense of 61-8-1002(1)(a) shall be
16 punished as follows:

17 (i) for a first violation offense, by imprisonment for not less than 24 consecutive hours or more
18 than 6 months and by a fine of not less than \$600 or more than \$1,000, except that if one or more passengers
19 under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by
20 imprisonment for not less than 48 consecutive hours or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than \$1,200
21 or more than \$2,000:

22 (ii) for a second violation offense, by imprisonment for not less than 7 days or more than 1 year
23 and by a fine of not less than \$1,200 or more than \$2,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16
24 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for
25 not less than 14 days or more than 1 year and a fine of not less than \$2,400 or more than \$4,000; or

26 (iii) for a third violation offense, by imprisonment for not less than 30 days or more than 1 year and
27 by a fine of not less than \$2,500 or more than \$5,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of
28 age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less

1 than 60 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$10,000.

2 (b) If the person has a prior conviction offense under 45-5-106, the person shall be punished as
3 provided in 61-8-1008.

4 (c) If the person has a prior conviction offense or pending charge for a violation an offense of
5 driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), or a similar offense under
6 previous laws of this state or the laws of another state that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the
7 influence in 61-8-1001, the person shall be punished as provided in subsection (4).

8 (d) The mandatory minimum imprisonment term may not be served under home arrest and may
9 not be suspended unless the judge finds that the imposition of the imprisonment sentence will pose a risk to the
10 person's physical or mental well-being.

11 (e) The remainder of the imprisonment sentence may be suspended for a period of up to 1 year
12 pending the person's successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program pursuant to 61-8-
13 1009. During any suspended portion of sentence imposed by the court:

14 (i) the person is subject to all conditions of the suspended sentence imposed by the court,
15 including mandatory participation in drug or DUI courts, if available;

16 (ii) the person is subject to all conditions of the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program, if
17 available and if imposed by the court; and

18 (iii) if the person violates any condition of the suspended sentence or any treatment requirement,
19 the court may impose the remainder of any imprisonment term that was imposed and suspended.

20 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c), a person convicted of a violation an
21 offense of 61-8-1002(1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d) shall be punished as follows:

22 (i) for a first violation offense, by imprisonment for not more than 6 months and by a fine of not
23 less than \$600 or more than \$1,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the
24 vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 6 months
25 and by a fine of not less than \$1,200 or more than \$2,000;

26 (ii) for a second violation offense, by imprisonment for not less than 5 days or more than 1 year
27 and by a fine of not less than \$1,200 or more than \$2,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16
28 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for

1 ~~net less than 10 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than \$2,400 or more than \$4,000; or~~
2 ~~(iii) for a third violation offense, by imprisonment for not less than 30 days or more than 1 year and~~
3 ~~by a fine of not less than \$2,500 or more than \$5,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of~~
4 ~~age were in the vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less~~
5 ~~than 60 days or more than 1 year and by a fine of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$10,000.~~

6 ~~(b) If the person has a prior conviction offense under 45-5-106, the person shall be punished as~~
7 ~~provided in 61-8-1008.~~

8 ~~(c) If the person has a prior conviction offense or pending charge for a violation of driving under~~
9 ~~the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), or a similar offense under previous laws of this~~
10 ~~state or the laws of another state that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-~~
11 ~~1001, the person shall be punished as provided in subsection (4).~~

12 ~~(d) The mandatory minimum imprisonment term may not be served under home arrest and may~~
13 ~~not be suspended unless the judge finds that the imposition of the imprisonment sentence will pose a risk to the~~
14 ~~person's physical or mental well-being.~~

15 ~~(e) The remainder of the imprisonment sentence may be suspended for a period of up to 1 year~~
16 ~~pending the person's successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program pursuant to 61-8-~~
17 ~~1009. During any suspended portion of sentence imposed by the court:~~

18 ~~(i) the person is subject to all conditions of the suspended sentence imposed by the court,~~
19 ~~including mandatory participation in drug or DUI courts, if available;~~

20 ~~(ii) the person is subject to all conditions of the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program, if~~
21 ~~available and if imposed by the court; and~~

22 ~~(iii) if the person violates any condition of the suspended sentence or any treatment requirement,~~
23 ~~the court may impose the remainder of any imprisonment term that was imposed and suspended.~~

24 ~~(3) (a) A person convicted of a violation an offense of 61-8-1002(1)(e) shall be punished as~~
25 ~~follows:~~

26 ~~(i) Upon a first conviction offense under this section, a person shall be punished by a fine of not~~
27 ~~less than \$100 or more than \$500.~~

28 ~~(ii) Upon a second conviction offense under this section, a person shall be punished by a fine of~~

1 ~~net less than \$200 or more than \$500 and, if the person is 18 years of age or older, by incarceration for not~~
2 ~~more than 10 days.~~

3 (iii) — Upon a third or subsequent conviction ~~offense~~ under this section, a person shall be punished
4 ~~by a fine of not less than \$300 or more than \$500 and, if the person is 18 years of age or older, by incarceration~~
5 ~~for not less than 24 consecutive hours or more than 60 days.~~

6 (iv) — In addition to the punishment provided in this section, regardless of disposition:

7 (A) — the person shall comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical
8 dependency treatment provisions in 61-8-1009 as ordered by the court; and

9 (B) — the department shall suspend the person's driver's license for 90 days upon the first conviction,
10 ~~6 months upon the second conviction, and 1 year upon the third or subsequent conviction. A restricted or~~
11 ~~probationary driver's license may not be issued during the suspension period until the person has paid a license~~
12 ~~reinstatement fee in accordance with 61-2-107 and, if the person was under the age of 18 at the time of the~~
13 ~~offense, has completed at least 30 days of the suspension period.~~

14 (b) — A conviction under this section may not be counted as a prior offense or conviction under 61-8-
15 ~~1007, 61-8-1008, and 61-8-1011.~~

16 (4) — (a) A person convicted of a violation ~~an offense~~ under 61-8-1002 charged as aggravated
17 ~~driving under the influence, as defined in 61-8-1001, shall be punished as follows:~~

18 (i) — for a first violation ~~offense~~, by imprisonment for not less than 2 days or more than 1 year and by
19 ~~a fine of \$1,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the time of~~
20 ~~the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 4 consecutive days or more than 1~~
21 ~~year and by a fine of \$2,000;~~

22 (ii) — for a second violation ~~offense~~, by imprisonment for not less than 15 days or more than 1 year
23 ~~and by a fine of \$2,500, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the vehicle at the~~
24 ~~time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 45 days or more than 1 year~~
25 ~~and by a fine of \$5,000; or~~

26 (iii) — for a third violation ~~offense~~, by imprisonment for not less than 40 consecutive days or more
27 ~~than 1 year and by a fine of \$5,000, except that if one or more passengers under 16 years of age were in the~~
28 ~~vehicle at the time of the offense, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 90~~

1 consecutive days or more than 1 year and by a fine of \$10,000.

2 (b) The mandatory minimum imprisonment term may not be served under home arrest and may
3 not be suspended unless the judge finds that the imposition of the imprisonment sentence will pose a risk to the
4 person's physical or mental well-being.

5 (c) The remainder of the imprisonment sentence may be suspended for a period of up to 1 year
6 pending the person's successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program pursuant to 61-8-
7 1009. During any suspended portion of sentence imposed by the court:

8 (i) the person is subject to all conditions of the suspended sentence imposed by the court,
9 including mandatory participation in drug or DUI courts, if available;

10 (ii) the person is subject to all conditions of the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program, if
11 available and if imposed by the court; and

12 (iii) if the person violates any condition of the suspended sentence or any treatment requirement,
13 the court may impose the remainder of any imprisonment term that was imposed and suspended.

14 (d) If the person has a prior conviction offense under 45-5-106, the person shall be punished as
15 provided in 61-8-1008.

16 (5) In addition to the punishment provided in this section, regardless of disposition, the person
17 shall comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical dependency treatment provisions in
18 61-8-1009 as ordered by the court.

19 (6) A person punished pursuant to this section is subject to mandatory revocation or suspension of
20 the person's driver's license as provided in chapter 5."

22 **Section 1.** Section 61-8-1011, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"61-8-1011. Driving under influence -- conviction prior offense conviction defined -- place of**
24 **imprisonment -- home arrest -- exceptions -- deferral of sentence not allowed.** (1) (a) For the purpose of
25 determining the number of convictions for prior offenses referred to in 61-8-1001, 61-8-1002, 61-8-1007, and
26 61-8-1008, "conviction" "prior offense" "conviction" means:

27 (i) a final conviction, as defined in 45-2-101, in this state, in another state, or on a federally
28 recognized Indian reservation;

9 (b) An offender is considered to have been previously convicted for the purposes of sentencing if
10 less than 10 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and ~~a~~the commission of a
11 previous conviction offense conviction unless the offense is the offender's third or subsequent offense, in which
12 case all previous convictions ~~offenses~~ convictions must be used for sentencing purposes.

13 (c) A previous ~~conviction~~ offense conviction for a violation of driving under the influence, including
14 61-8-1002(1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the
15 influence in 61-8-1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, or a
16 violation of a similar statute or regulation in another state or on a federally recognized Indian reservation, and
17 as otherwise defined in subsection (1)(a) may be counted for the purposes of determining the number of a
18 subsequent conviction ~~conviction~~ offense conviction for a violation of driving under the influence under 61-8-1002.

19 (d) A previous conviction for a violation of 45-5-104 for which the offense under 45-5-104 occurred
20 while the person was operating a vehicle in violation of driving under the influence, including 61-8-1002(1)(a),
21 (1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), an offense that meets the definition of aggravated driving under the influence in 61-8-
22 1001, or a similar offense under previous laws of this state or the laws of another state, and a previous
23 conviction for a violation of 45-5-205 or 45-5-628(1)(e) may also be counted for the purposes of determining the
24 number of a subsequent conviction for a violation of driving under the influence under 61-8-1002.

25 (2) Except as provided in 61-8-1008, the court may order that a term of imprisonment imposed
26 under 61-8-1007 or 61-8-1008 be served in another facility made available by the county and approved by the
27 sentencing court. The defendant, if financially able, shall bear the expense of the imprisonment in the facility.
28 The court may impose restrictions on the defendant's ability to leave the premises of the facility and may

1 require that the defendant follow the rules of the facility. The facility may be, but is not required to be, a
2 community-based prerelease center as provided for in 53-1-203. The prerelease center may accept or reject a
3 defendant referred by the sentencing court.

4 (3) Subject to the limitations set forth in 61-8-1007 concerning minimum periods of imprisonment,
5 the court may order that a term of imprisonment imposed under 61-8-1007 be served by imprisonment under
6 home arrest, as provided in Title 46, chapter 18, part 10.

7 (4) A court may not defer imposition of sentence under 61-8-1007 or 61-8-1008.

8 (5) The provisions of 61-2-107, 61-5-205(2), and 61-5-208(2), relating to suspension of driver's
9 licenses and later reinstatement of driving privileges, apply to any conviction under 61-8-1007 for a violation of
10 61-8-1002."

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