

Amendment - 2nd Reading/2nd House-tan - Requested by: Wylie Galt - (S) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Joseph Carroll,

HB0913.003.006

HOUSE BILL NO. 913

INTRODUCED BY F. NAVE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE BILL NO. 2; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGES; PROVIDING FOR A REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS AT THE MONTANA STATE PRISON; ~~PROVIDING FOR AN INTERIM STUDY OF STATE OFFENDER INDIVIDUAL RE-ENTRY SERVICES;~~ PROVIDING FOR AN INTERIM STUDY ON WAGES AND CONSOLIDATION OF LEGAL SERVICES; ~~REVISING LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDREN IN CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES;~~ AMENDING SECTIONS SECTION 3-5-102 AND 41-3-425, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 3-5-102, MCA, is amended to read:

"3-5-102. Number of judges. In each judicial district, there must be the following number of judges of the district court:

- (1) in the 2nd, 7th, 16th, 20th, and 21st districts, two judges each;
- (2) in the 1st, 8th, and 18th districts, four judges each;
- (3) in the 4th and 11th districts, five judges each;
- (4) in the 13th district, ~~eight~~ 10 judges; and
- (5) in all other districts, one judge each."

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Reporting on inappropriate or illicit communications within corrections. (1) For the interim following the 69th legislative session, the department of corrections shall report at each meeting of the law and justice interim committee and the judicial branch, law enforcement, and justice interim budget committee on the details and effectiveness of its methods to reduce inappropriate or illicit

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communications to or from inmates at the Montana state prison.

(2) Inappropriate or illicit communications include those that discuss or solicit victim information, drug trafficking arrangements, or other illegal and restricted activities.

(3) As a part of its reporting, the department of corrections shall provide quarterly reports on the following:

(a) the number of e-mails, messages, and other electronic communications to and from inmates at the Montana state prison;

(b) the number of e-mails blocked by automatic scanning systems;

(c) the result of the department of correction's audit of both the blocked and unblocked communications to determine the rate of false negatives and false positives;

(d) a description of the process and cost of electronic monitoring of tablets and devices; and

(e) any incidents at the Montana State Prison that involve e-mail communications that were inappropriately filtered by automatic scanning systems.

~~NEW SECTION. Section 3. Study of offender re-entry services. (1) For the interim following the 69th legislative session, the law and justice interim committee CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL ESTABLISHED IN 53-1-216 shall study issues related to the provision of offender re-entry services provided by the state.~~

~~(2) At a minimum, the study must include a consideration of the following:~~

~~(a) costs and benefits of offender individual re-entry services;~~

~~(b) re-entry programs successful in other states; and~~

~~(c) impacts of re-entry services on recidivism in Montana and in other states.~~

~~(3) The law and justice interim committee CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL shall complete the study by September 15, 2026, and report its findings and recommendations, including potential legislation, to the 70th legislature and to the judicial branch, law enforcement, and justice interim budget committee.~~

~~(4) The law and justice interim committee CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL shall invite the members of the judicial branch, law enforcement, and justice interim budget committee to each of its meetings to participate in the study.~~

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1 \$40,000 from the general fund to the missing indigenous persons task force account established in [section 1 of
2 House Bill No. 83].
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4 COORDINATION SECTION. **Section 5. Coordination instruction.** ~~(1) If House Bill No. 2 is passed~~
5 ~~and approved and does not contain an appropriation to the legislative services division of at least \$50,000 to~~
6 ~~staff the study provided for in [section 3], then [section 3] is void.~~

7 ~~(2)~~ — If House Bill No. 2 is passed and approved and if it does not contain the following
8 appropriations for the study and report in [section ~~4.3 of this act~~], then [section ~~4.3 of this act~~] is void:

9 ~~(a)(1)~~ at least \$25,000 to the department of administration to provide reports ~~and a proposal~~ provided
10 for in [section ~~4.3 of this act~~]; and

11 ~~(b)(2)~~ at least \$20,000 to the legislative fiscal division to staff the study provided for in [section ~~4.3 of~~
12 ~~this act~~].
13

14 NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.
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16 NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Termination.** [Sections 2 ~~through 4 and 3~~] terminate September 30,
17 2026.

18 - END -