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HOUSE BILL NO. 82

INTRODUCED BY K. LOVE

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN; CREATING THE OFFENSE OF GROOMING OF A CHILD FOR A SEXUAL OFFENSE; REVISING CERTAIN CRIMES TO INCLUDE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHOM THE OFFENDER BELIEVED TO BE A CHILD; REVISING THE OFFENSE OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN TO INCLUDE COMPUTER-GENERATED CHILD PORNOGRAPHY; ADDING THE OFFENSE OF GROOMING OF A CHILD FOR A SEXUAL OFFENSE TO THE DEFINITION OF "SEXUAL OFFENSE"; AMENDING SECTIONS 45-5-504, 45-5-601, 45-5-625, 45-5-711, 45-8-201, 46-23-502, AND 46-23-509, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Grooming of child for sexual offense.** (1) A person commits the

offense of grooming of a child for a sexual offense if the person purposely or knowingly engages in a pattern of grooming behavior ~~by any means of communication~~, including in-person or electronic communication, aimed at a child or the child's guardian with the intent to:

- (a) manipulate the child into engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;
  - (b) coerce or entice a child under 16 years of age to meet in person to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;
  - (c) distribute or facilitate access to sexually explicit material; or
  - (d) exploit a position of authority to develop an intimate or secretive relationship with a minor.
- (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) or subsection (3), a person convicted of the offense

of grooming of a child for a sexual offense shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 10 years and may be fined not more than \$10,000.

- (b) If the victim is under 16 years of age, a person convicted of the offense of grooming of a child

1 for a sexual offense shall be punished by life imprisonment or by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of  
2 not less than 4 years or more than 100 years and may be fined not more than \$10,000.

3 (3) (a) If the victim was 12 years of age or younger and the offender was 18 years of age or older  
4 at the time of the offense, the offender:

5 (i) shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of 100 years. The court may  
6 not suspend execution or defer imposition of the first 25 years of a sentence of imprisonment imposed under  
7 this subsection (3)(a)(i) except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5), and during the first 25 years of  
8 imprisonment, the offender is not eligible for parole. The exception provided in 46-18-222(6) does not apply.

9 (ii) may be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000; and

10 (iii) shall be ordered to enroll in and successfully complete the educational phase and the cognitive  
11 and behavioral phase of a sexual offender treatment program provided or approved by the department of  
12 corrections.

13 (b) If the offender is released after the mandatory minimum period of imprisonment, the offender is  
14 subject to supervision by the department of corrections for the remainder of the offender's life and shall  
15 participate in the program for continuous, satellite-based monitoring provided for in 46-23-1010.

16 (4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

17 (a) "Electronic communication" means a sign, a signal, writing, an image, a sound, data, or  
18 intelligence of any nature transmitted or created in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic,  
19 photoelectronic, or photo-optical system.

20 (b) "Grooming" means behavior that seeks to prepare, induce, or persuade a minor to engage in  
21 sexual activity or other forms of exploitation, even if no meeting or sexual act is completed. It is the deliberate  
22 act of establishing an emotional connection with a minor through manipulation, trust-building, or influence to  
23 facilitate future sexual abuse or exploitation. This includes online or in-person activities, use of third parties, or  
24 indirect methods to facilitate the manipulation of a child.

25 (c) "Sexual conduct" means:

26 (i) actual or simulated:

27 (A) sexual intercourse, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex, as defined in 1-1-  
28 201;

- 1 (B) penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object, except when done as part of a recognized
- 2 medical procedure;
- 3 (C) bestiality;
- 4 (D) masturbation;
- 5 (E) sadomasochistic abuse;
- 6 (F) lewd exhibition of the genitals, breasts, pubic or rectal area, or other intimate parts of a person;
- 7 or
- 8 (G) defecation or urination for the purpose of the sexual stimulation of the viewer; or
- 9 (ii) the depiction or observation of a child in the nude or in a state of partial undress with the
- 10 purpose to abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade the child or to arouse or gratify the person's own sexual
- 11 response or desire or the sexual response or desire of any person.
- 12 (d) "Simulated" means any depiction of the genitals or pubic or rectal area that gives the
- 13 appearance of sexual conduct or incipient sexual conduct.
- 14

15 **Section 2.** Section 45-5-504, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"45-5-504. Indecent exposure.** (1) A person commits the offense of indecent exposure if the person

17 knowingly or purposely exposes the person's genitals or intimate parts by any means, including electronic

18 communication as defined in 45-5-625(5)(a), under circumstances in which the person knows the conduct is

19 likely to cause affront or alarm in order to:

- 20 (a) abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade another; or
- 21 (b) arouse or gratify the person's own sexual response or desire or the sexual response or desire
- 22 of any person.

23 (2) (a) A person convicted of the offense of indecent exposure shall be fined an amount not to

24 exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term of not more than 6 months, or both.

25 (b) On a second conviction, the person shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$1,000 or be

26 imprisoned in the county jail for a term of not more than 1 year, or both.

27 (c) On a third or subsequent conviction, the person shall be fined an amount not to exceed

28 \$10,000 or be imprisoned in a state prison for a term of not more than 10 years, or both.

1 (3) (a) A person commits the offense of indecent exposure to a minor if the person commits an  
2 offense under subsection (1) and the person knows the conduct will be observed by a person who is under 16  
3 years of age or a person, including a law enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity, whom  
4 the offender believes to be a child who is under 16 years of age, and the offender is more than 4 years older  
5 than the victim or purported victim.

6 (b) A person convicted of the offense of indecent exposure to a minor shall be fined an amount not  
7 to exceed \$50,000 or be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not less than 4 years, unless the judge  
8 makes a written finding that there is good cause to impose a term of less than 4 years and imposes a term of  
9 less than 4 years, or more than 100 years, or both."

10

11 **Section 3.** Section 45-5-601, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"45-5-601. Prostitution -- patronizing prostitute -- exception.** (1) Except as provided in subsection  
13 (2)(a), the offense of prostitution is committed if a person engages in or agrees or offers to engage in sexual  
14 intercourse or sexual contact that is direct and not through clothing with another person for compensation,  
15 whether the compensation is received or to be received or paid or to be paid.

16 (2) (a) A prostitute may be convicted of prostitution only if the prostitute engages in or agrees or  
17 offers to engage in sexual intercourse with another person for compensation, whether the compensation is  
18 received or to be received or paid or to be paid. A prostitute who is convicted of prostitution may be fined an  
19 amount not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.

20 (b) A patron may be convicted of patronizing a prostitute if the patron engages in or agrees or  
21 offers to engage in sexual intercourse or sexual contact that is direct and not through clothing with another  
22 person for compensation, whether the compensation is received or to be received or paid or to be paid. Except  
23 as provided in subsection (3), a patron who is convicted of prostitution shall for the first offense be fined an  
24 amount not to exceed \$5,000 or be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 5 years, or both, and for a second or  
25 subsequent offense shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$10,000 or be imprisoned for a term not to exceed  
26 10 years, or both.

27 (3) (a) If the person patronized was a child, whether or not the patron was aware of the child's age,  
28 or if the person was a person, including a law enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity,

1 whom the patron believed was a child and the patron was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense,  
2 ~~whether or not the patron was aware of the child's age~~, the patron offender:

3 (i) shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison for a term of 100 years. The court may not  
4 suspend execution or defer imposition of the first 25 years of a sentence of imprisonment imposed under this  
5 subsection (3)(a)(i) except as provided in 46-18-222, and during the first 25 years of imprisonment, the offender  
6 is not eligible for parole.

7 (ii) may be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000; and

8 (iii) shall be ordered to enroll in and successfully complete the educational phase and the cognitive  
9 and behavioral phase of a sexual offender treatment program provided or approved by the department of  
10 corrections.

11 (b) If the offender is released after the mandatory minimum period of imprisonment, the offender is  
12 subject to supervision by the department of corrections for the remainder of the offender's life and shall  
13 participate in the program for continuous, satellite-based monitoring provided for in 46-23-1010.

14 (4) It is not a violation of this section for a person with an impaired physical ability, physical  
15 dysfunction, recent injury, or other disability to engage in sex therapy with a partner surrogate who is working  
16 under the supervision of a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or clinical professional counselor  
17 licensed under Title 37, chapter 39.

18 (5) It is not a defense in a prosecution under this section that a child consented to engage in  
19 sexual activity.

20 (6) It is not a defense in a prosecution under this section that a defendant believed the child was  
21 an adult. Absolute liability, as provided in 45-2-104, is imposed."

22

23 **Section 4.** Section 45-5-625, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"45-5-625. Sexual abuse of children.** (1) A person commits the offense of sexual abuse of children if  
25 the person:

26 (a) knowingly employs, uses, or permits the employment or use of a child in an exhibition of sexual  
27 conduct, actual or simulated;

28 (b) knowingly photographs, films, videotapes, develops or duplicates the photographs, films, or

1 videotapes, or records a child engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

2 (c) knowingly, by any means of communication, including electronic communication or in person,  
3 persuades, entices, counsels, coerces, encourages, directs, or procures a child under 16 years of age or a  
4 ~~person~~ a person, including a law enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity, whom the  
5 offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to engage in sexual conduct, actual or simulated, or to  
6 view sexually explicit material or acts for the purpose of inducing or persuading a child to participate in any  
7 sexual activity that is illegal;

8 (d) knowingly processes, develops, prints, publishes, transports, distributes, sells, exhibits, or  
9 advertises any visual or print medium, including a medium by use of electronic communication in which a child  
10 is engaged in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

11 (e) knowingly possesses any visual or print medium, including a medium by use of electronic  
12 communication or any computer-generated child pornography in which a child is engaged in sexual conduct,  
13 actual or simulated;

14 (f) finances any of the activities described in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) and (1)(g), knowing  
15 that the activity is of the nature described in those subsections;

16 (g) possesses with intent to sell any visual or print medium, including a medium by use of  
17 electronic communication in which a child is engaged in sexual conduct, actual or simulated;

18 (h) knowingly travels within, from, or to this state with the intention of meeting a child under 16  
19 years of age or a ~~person~~ a person, including a law enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity,  
20 whom the offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age in order to engage in sexual conduct, actual or  
21 simulated; or

22 (i) knowingly coerces, entices, persuades, arranges for, or facilitates a child under 16 years of age  
23 or a ~~person~~ a person, including a law enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity, whom the  
24 offender believes to be a child under 16 years of age to travel within, from, or to this state with the intention of  
25 engaging in sexual conduct, actual or simulated; or

26 (j) knowingly threatens to release, exhibit, or distribute any image or video of a child engaging in  
27 sexual conduct, actual or simulated, in order to compel the child to provide additional images or videos of a  
28 child engaging in sexual conduct, obtain any item of value, or coerce a child to commit or facilitate any crime.

1 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), (2)(c), or (4), a person convicted of the offense of  
2 sexual abuse of children shall be punished by life imprisonment or by imprisonment in the state prison for a  
3 term not to exceed 100 years and may be fined not more than \$10,000.

4 (b) Except as provided in 46-18-219, if the victim is under 16 years of age or is a person, including  
5 a law enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity, whom the offender believes to be a child  
6 under 16 years of age, a person convicted of the offense of sexual abuse of children shall be punished by life  
7 imprisonment or by imprisonment in the state prison for a term of not less than 4 years or more than 100 years  
8 and may be fined not more than \$10,000.

9 (c) Except as provided in 46-18-219, a person convicted of the offense of sexual abuse of children  
10 for the possession of material, as provided in subsection (1)(e), shall be fined not to exceed \$10,000 or be  
11 imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 10 years, or both.

12 (3) An offense is not committed under subsections (1)(d) through (1)(g) if the visual or print  
13 medium is processed, developed, printed, published, transported, distributed, sold, possessed, or possessed  
14 with intent to sell, or if the activity is financed, as part of a sexual offender information or treatment course or  
15 program conducted or approved by the department of corrections.

16 (4) (a) If the victim was 12 years of age or younger or is a person, including a law enforcement  
17 officer using an undercover or fictitious identity, whom the offender believed to be 12 years of age or younger  
18 and the offender was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense, the offender:

19 (i) shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison for a term of 100 years. The court may not  
20 suspend execution or defer imposition of the first 25 years of a sentence of imprisonment imposed under this  
21 subsection (4)(a)(i) except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through (5), and during the first 25 years of  
22 imprisonment, the offender is not eligible for parole. The exception provided in 46-18-222(6) does not apply.

23 (ii) may be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000; and

24 (iii) shall be ordered to enroll in and successfully complete the educational phase and the cognitive  
25 and behavioral phase of a sexual offender treatment program provided or approved by the department of  
26 corrections.

27 (b) If the offender is released after the mandatory minimum period of imprisonment, the offender is  
28 subject to supervision by the department of corrections for the remainder of the offender's life and shall

1 participate in the program for continuous, satellite-based monitoring provided for in 46-23-1010.

2 (5) It is not a defense to prosecution under this section that the perceived child is an adult or law  
3 enforcement officer.

4 (5)(6) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

5 (a) "Computer-generated child pornography" means any visual depiction of:

6 (i) an actual minor that has been created, adapted, or modified to portray that minor engaged in a  
7 prohibited sexual act;

8 (ii) an actual adult that has been created, adapted, or modified to portray that adult as a minor  
9 engaged in a prohibited sexual act; or

10 (iii) an individual indistinguishable from an actual minor created by the use of artificial intelligence  
11 or other computer technology capable of processing and interpreting specific data inputs to portray that  
12 individual as a minor engaged in a prohibited sexual act.

13 (a)(b) "Electronic communication" means a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, data, or intelligence of  
14 any nature transmitted or created in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or  
15 photo-optical system.

16 (c) "Indistinguishable", when used with respect to a visual depiction, means virtually  
17 indistinguishable, in that the visual depiction is such that an ordinary person viewing the visual depiction would  
18 conclude that the visual depiction is of an actual minor engaged in a prohibited sexual act.

19 (b)(d) "Sexual conduct" means:

20 (i) actual or simulated:

21 (A) sexual intercourse, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex, as defined in 1-1-  
22 201;

23 (B) penetration of the vagina or rectum by any object, except when done as part of a recognized  
24 medical procedure;

25 (C) bestiality;

26 (D) masturbation;

27 (E) sadomasochistic abuse;

28 (F) lewd exhibition of the genitals, breasts, pubic or rectal area, or other intimate parts of any

1 person; or

2 (G) defecation or urination for the purpose of the sexual stimulation of the viewer; or

3 (ii) depiction or observation of a child in the nude or in a state of partial undress with the purpose  
4 to abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade the child or to arouse or gratify the person's own sexual response or  
5 desire or the sexual response or desire of any person.

6 ~~(e)~~(e) "Simulated" means any depicting of the genitals or pubic or rectal area that gives the  
7 appearance of sexual conduct or incipient sexual conduct.

8 ~~(d)~~(f) "Visual medium" means:

9 (i) any film, photograph, videotape, negative, slide, or photographic reproduction that contains or  
10 incorporates in any manner any film, photograph, videotape, negative, or slide; or

11 (ii) any disk, diskette, or other physical media that allows an image to be displayed on a computer  
12 or other video screen and any image transmitted to a computer or other video screen by telephone line, cable,  
13 satellite transmission, or other method."  
14

15 **Section 5.** Section 45-5-711, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"45-5-711. Child sex trafficking.** (1) A person commits the offense of child sex trafficking by  
17 purposely or knowingly:

18 (a) committing the offense of sex trafficking with a child; or

19 (b) recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, receiving, providing, obtaining, isolating,  
20 maintaining, enticing, or using a child, or in the case of recruiting or enticing, a person, including a law  
21 enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity, whom the offender believes to be a child, for the  
22 purposes of commercial sexual activity.

23 (2) (a) A person convicted of the offense of child sex trafficking shall be imprisoned in the state  
24 prison for a term of 100 years. The court may not suspend execution or defer imposition of the first 25 years of  
25 a sentence of imprisonment imposed under this subsection (2)(a) except as provided in 46-18-222(1) through  
26 (4). During the first 25 years of imprisonment, the offender is not eligible for parole. The exceptions provided in  
27 46-18-222(5) and (6) do not apply.

28 (b) In addition to the sentence of imprisonment imposed under subsection (2)(a), the offender:

- 1 (i) must be fined in the amount of \$400,000; and
- 2 (ii) if released after the mandatory minimum period of imprisonment, is subject to supervision by
- 3 the department of corrections for the remainder of the offender's life and shall participate in the program for
- 4 continuous, satellite-based monitoring provided for in 46-23-1010.
- 5 (3) It is not a defense in a prosecution under this section:
- 6 (a) that a child consented to engage in commercial sexual activity; or
- 7 (b) that the defendant believed the child was an adult. Absolute liability, as provided in 45-2-104, is
- 8 imposed."

9

10 **Section 6.** Section 45-8-201, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"45-8-201. Obscenity.** (1) A person commits the offense of obscenity when, with knowledge of the

12 obscene nature of the material, the person purposely or knowingly:

13 (a) sells, delivers, or provides or offers or agrees to sell, deliver, or provide any obscene writing,

14 picture, record, or other representation or embodiment of the obscene to anyone under 18 years of age or a

15 person, including a law enforcement officer using an undercover or fictitious identity, whom the offender

16 believes to be under 18 years of age;

17 (b) presents or directs an obscene play, dance, or other performance, or participates in that portion

18 of the performance that makes it obscene, to anyone under 18 years of age;

19 (c) publishes, exhibits, or otherwise makes available anything obscene to anyone under 18 years

20 of age;

21 (d) performs an obscene act or otherwise presents an obscene exhibition of the person's body to

22 anyone under 18 years of age;

23 (e) creates, buys, procures, or possesses obscene matter or material with the purpose to

24 disseminate it to anyone under 18 years of age or a person, including a law enforcement officer using an

25 undercover or fictitious identity, whom the offender believes to be under 18 years of age; or

26 (f) advertises or otherwise promotes the sale of obscene material or materials represented or held

27 out by the person to be obscene.

28 (2) A thing is obscene if:

- 1 (a) (i) it is a representation or description of perverted ultimate sexual acts, actual or simulated;
- 2 (ii) it is a patently offensive representation or description of normal ultimate sexual acts, actual or
- 3 simulated; or
- 4 (iii) it is a patently offensive representation or description of masturbation, excretory functions, or
- 5 lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- 6 (b) taken as a whole the material:
  - 7 (i) applying contemporary community standards, appeals to the prurient interest in sex;
  - 8 (ii) portrays conduct described in subsection (2)(a)(i), (2)(a)(ii), or (2)(a)(iii) in a patently offensive
  - 9 way; and
  - 10 (iii) lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
- 11 (3) In any prosecution for an offense under this section, evidence is admissible to show:
  - 12 (a) the predominant appeal of the material and what effect, if any, it would probably have on the
  - 13 behavior of people;
  - 14 (b) the artistic, literary, scientific, educational, or other merits of the material;
  - 15 (c) the degree of public acceptance of the material in the community;
  - 16 (d) the appeal to prurient interest or absence of that appeal in advertising or other promotion of the
  - 17 material; or
  - 18 (e) the purpose of the author, creator, publisher, or disseminator.
- 19 (4) A person convicted of obscenity shall be fined at least \$500 but not more than \$1,000 or be
- 20 imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.
- 21 (5) Cities, towns, counties, or school districts may adopt ordinances, resolutions, or policies that
- 22 are more restrictive as to obscenity than the provisions of this section."

**Section 7.** Section 46-23-502, MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-23-502. Definitions.** As used in Title 45, chapter 5, part 3 and parts 5 through 7, 46-18-255, and this part, the following definitions apply:

- 27 (1) "Department" means the department of corrections provided for in 2-15-2301.
- 28 (2) "Foreign offenses" means a conviction for a sexual offense involving any of the conduct listed

1 in this section that was obtained under the laws of Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, or New Zealand, or  
2 under the laws of any foreign country when the United States department of state, in its country reports on  
3 human rights practices, has concluded that an independent judiciary generally or vigorously enforced the right  
4 to a fair trial in that country during the year in which the conviction was obtained.

5 (3) "Mental abnormality" means a congenital or acquired condition that affects the mental,  
6 emotional, or volitional capacity of a person in a manner that predisposes the person to the commission of one  
7 or more sexual offenses to a degree that makes the person a menace to the health and safety of other persons.

8 (4) "Municipality" means an entity that has incorporated as a city or town.

9 (5) "Personality disorder" means a personality disorder as defined in the fourth edition of the  
10 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders adopted by the American psychiatric association.

11 (6) "Predatory sexual offense" means a sexual offense committed against a stranger or against a  
12 person with whom a relationship has been established or furthered for the primary purpose of victimization.

13 (7) "Registration agency" means:

14 (a) if the offender resides in a municipality, the police department of that municipality; or

15 (b) if the offender resides in a place other than a municipality, the sheriff's office of the county in  
16 which the offender resides.

17 (8) (a) "Residence" means the location at which a person regularly resides, regardless of the  
18 number of days or nights spent at that location, that can be located by a street address, including a house,  
19 apartment building, motel, hotel, or recreational or other vehicle.

20 (b) The term does not mean a homeless shelter.

21 (9) "Sexual offender evaluator" means a person qualified under rules established by the  
22 department to conduct psychosexual evaluations of sexual offenders and sexually violent predators.

23 (10) (a) "Sexual offense" means any violation, attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a  
24 violation, or flight after the attempt or commission of the following:

25 (i) 45-5-301, unlawful restraint, if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a  
26 parent of the victim;

27 (ii) 45-5-302, kidnapping, if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is not a parent  
28 of the victim;

1 (iii) 45-5-303, aggravated kidnapping, if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is  
2 not a parent of the victim;

3 (iv) 45-5-502(2)(c), (3), and (4), sexual assault;

4 (v) 45-5-503, sexual intercourse without consent;

5 (vi) 45-5-504(2)(c) and (3), indecent exposure;

6 (vii) 45-5-507, incest, if the victim is less than 18 years of age and the offender is 3 or more years  
7 older than the victim, or if the victim is 12 years of age or younger and the offender is 18 years of age or older  
8 at the time of the offense;

9 (viii) 45-5-508, aggravated sexual intercourse without consent;

10 (ix) 45-5-601(2)(b) and (3), prostitution;

11 (x) 45-5-622(2)(b)(ii), endangering the welfare of children;

12 (xi) 45-5-625, sexual abuse of children;

13 (xii) 45-5-627(1)(a), ritual abuse of a minor;

14 (xiii) 45-5-705, patronizing a victim of sex trafficking;

15 (xiv) 45-5-706, aggravated sex trafficking;

16 (xv) 45-5-711, child sex trafficking;

17 (xvi) 45-8-218, deviate sexual conduct; or

18 (xvii) [section 1], grooming of a child for a sexual offense; or

19 ~~(xviii)~~(xviii) any violation of a law of another state, a tribal government, the federal government, or  
20 the military or a foreign entity that is reasonably equivalent to a violation listed in subsections (10)(a)(i) through  
21 ~~(10)(a)(xvi)~~(10)(a)(xvii) or for which the offender was required to register as a sexual offender after an  
22 adjudication or conviction.

23 (b) The term does not include the exceptions provided for in 45-5-501, 45-5-502, and 45-5-503.

24 (11) "Sexual or violent offender" means a person who has been convicted of or, in youth court,  
25 found to have committed or been adjudicated for a sexual or violent offense.

26 (12) "Sexually violent predator" means a person who:

27 (a) has been convicted of or, in youth court, found to have committed or been adjudicated for a  
28 sexual offense and who suffers from a mental abnormality or a personality disorder that makes the person likely

1 to engage in predatory sexual offenses; or

2 (b) has been convicted of a sexual offense against a victim 12 years of age or younger and the  
3 offender is 18 years of age or older.

4 (13) "Transient" means an offender who has no residence.

5 (14) "Violent offense" means:

6 (a) any violation of or attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit a violation of:

7 (i) 45-5-102, deliberate homicide;

8 (ii) 45-5-103, mitigated deliberate homicide;

9 (iii) 45-5-202, aggravated assault;

10 (iv) 45-5-206 (third or subsequent offense), partner or family member assault;

11 (v) 45-5-210(1)(b), (1)(c), or (1)(d), assault on a peace officer or judicial officer;

12 (vi) 45-5-212, assault on a minor;

13 (vii) 45-5-213, assault with a weapon;

14 (viii) 45-5-215, strangulation of a partner or family member;

15 (ix) 45-5-302 (if the victim is not a minor), kidnapping;

16 (x) 45-5-303 (if the victim is not a minor), aggravated kidnapping;

17 (xi) 45-5-401, robbery;

18 (xii) 45-6-103, arson; or

19 (xiii) 45-9-132, operation of unlawful clandestine laboratory; or

20 (b) any violation of a law of another state, a tribal government, the federal government, or the  
21 military or a foreign entity reasonably equivalent to a violation listed in subsection (14)(a)."

22

23 **Section 8.** Section 46-23-509, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"46-23-509. Psychosexual evaluations and sexual offender designations.** (1) Prior to sentencing  
25 of a person convicted of a sexual offense, a sexual offender evaluator who has a license endorsement as  
26 provided for in 37-1-139 shall provide the court with a psychosexual evaluation report recommending one of the  
27 following levels of designation for the offender:

28 (a) level 1, the risk of a repeat sexual offense is low;

1 (b) level 2, the risk of a repeat sexual offense is moderate;

2 (c) level 3, the risk of a repeat sexual offense is high, there is a threat to public safety, and the  
3 sexual offender evaluator believes that the offender is a sexually violent predator.

4 (2) Upon sentencing the offender, the court shall:

5 (a) review the psychosexual evaluation report, any statement by a victim, and any statement by  
6 the offender;

7 (b) designate the offender as level 1, 2, or 3; and

8 (c) designate a level 3 offender as a sexually violent predator.

9 (3) An offender designated as a level 2 offender or given a level designation by another state, the  
10 federal government, or the department under subsection (5) that is determined by the court to be similar to level  
11 2 may petition the sentencing court or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender resides to  
12 change the offender's designation if the offender has enrolled in and successfully completed the treatment  
13 phase of either the prison's sexual offender treatment program or of an equivalent program approved by the  
14 department. After considering the petition, the court may change the offender's risk level designation if the court  
15 finds by clear and convincing evidence that the offender's risk of committing a repeat sexual offense has  
16 changed since the time sentence was imposed. The court shall impose one of the three risk levels specified in  
17 this section.

18 (4) If, at the time of sentencing, the sentencing judge did not apply a level designation to a sexual  
19 offender who is required to register under this part and who was sentenced prior to October 1, 1997, the  
20 department shall designate the offender as level 1, 2, or 3 when the offender is released from confinement.

21 (5) If an offense is covered by ~~46-23-502(10)(a)(xvii)~~ 46-23-502(10)(a)(xviii), the offender registers  
22 under 46-23-504(1)(c), and the offender was given a risk level designation after conviction by another state or  
23 the federal government, the department of justice may give the offender the risk level designation assigned by  
24 the other state or the federal government. All offenders convicted in another state or by the federal government  
25 who are not currently under the supervision of the department or the youth court and were not given a risk level  
26 designation after conviction shall provide to the department of justice all prior risk assessments and  
27 psychosexual evaluations done to evaluate the offender's risk to reoffend. Any offender without a risk  
28 assessment or psychosexual evaluation shall, at the offender's expense, undergo a psychosexual evaluation

1 with a sexual offender evaluator who has a license endorsement as provided for in 37-1-139. The results of the  
2 psychosexual evaluation may be requested by the attorney general or a county attorney for purposes of  
3 petitioning a district court to assign a risk level designation.

4 (6) The lack of a fixed residence is a factor that may be considered by the sentencing court or by  
5 the department in determining the risk level to be assigned to an offender pursuant to this section.

6 (7) Upon obtaining information that indicates that a sexual offender who is required to register  
7 under this part does not have a level 1, 2, or 3 designation, the offender, the attorney general, the county  
8 attorney that prosecuted the offender and obtained a conviction for a sexual offense, or the county attorney for  
9 the county in which the offender resides may, at any time, petition the district court that sentenced the offender  
10 for a sexual offense or the district court for the judicial district in which the offender resides to designate the  
11 offender as level 1, 2, or 3. Upon the filing of the petition, the court may order a psychosexual evaluation report  
12 at the petitioner's expense, or order that the results of all prior psychosexual evaluations be provided to all  
13 parties. The court shall provide the offender with an opportunity for a hearing prior to designating the offender.  
14 The petitioner shall provide the offender, the attorney general, and the county attorney that prosecuted the  
15 offender with notice of the petition and notice of the hearing. As provided in 46-23-506(2)(d), petitions for relief  
16 from registration under this part must be filed in the appropriate Montana district court. Orders or other  
17 documents granting relief from registration requirements that originated in other jurisdictions are not valid in  
18 Montana."

19  
20 NEW SECTION. Section 9. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
21 integral part of Title 45, chapter 5, part 6, and the provisions of Title 45, chapter 5, part 6, apply to [section 1].

22  
23 NEW SECTION. Section 10. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are  
24 severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications,  
25 the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

26  
27 NEW SECTION. Section 11. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

28 - END -