

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 301
2 INTRODUCED BY D. BAUM, D. HAWK, E. KERR-CARPENTER, K. ZOLNIKOV, S. ESSMANN, S. VINTON, T.
3 MOORE, L. BREWSTER, B. MERCER, N. NICOL, K. SEEKINS-CROWE, G. OBLANDER, M. YAKAWICH, C.
4 FRIEDEL, J. ETCHART, L. DEMING, N. DURAM

5
6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO DANGEROUS DRUGS;
7 PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ~~POSSESSING OR~~ USING A WEAPON IN THE COMMISSION OF CERTAIN
8 DRUG CRIMES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 45-9-101 AND 45-9-103, MCA."

9
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11
12 **Section 1.** Section 45-9-101, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"45-9-101. Criminal distribution of dangerous drugs.** (1) Except as provided in Title 16, chapter
14 12, a person commits the offense of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs if the person sells, barter,
15 exchanges, gives away, or offers to sell, barter, exchange, or give away any dangerous drug, as defined in 50-
16 32-101.

17 (2) A person convicted of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs involving giving away or sharing
18 any dangerous drug, as defined in 50-32-101, shall be sentenced as provided in 45-9-102.

19 (3) (a) A person convicted of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs not otherwise provided for in
20 subsection (1), (2), (4), or (5) shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed 25 years or be
21 fined an amount of not more than \$50,000, or both.

22 (b) If the provisions of 46-1-401 have been complied with, a person who has been found guilty of
23 this offense and who, while engaged in the commission of the offense, knowingly ~~possessed or~~ used a firearm,
24 a destructive device as defined in 45-8-332, or another dangerous weapon shall, in addition to the penalty
25 provided for the commission of the underlying offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the state
26 prison of not less than 2 years or more than 10 years, except as provided in 46-18-222.

27 (4) A person who was an adult at the time of distribution and who is convicted of criminal
28 distribution of dangerous drugs to a minor shall be sentenced as follows:

Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Casey Knudsen - (H) Judiciary

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Rachel Weiss, 406-444-5367

HB0301.001.001

1 (a) For a first offense, the person shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term not to exceed
2 40 years and may be fined not more than \$50,000.

3 (b) For a second or subsequent offense, the person shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a
4 term not to exceed life and may be fined not more than \$50,000.

5 (5) If the offense charged results in the death of an individual from the use of any dangerous drug
6 that was distributed, the person shall be imprisoned in the state prison for a term of not more than 100 years
7 and may be fined not more than \$100,000.

8 (6) Practitioners, as defined in 50-32-101, and agents under their supervision acting in the course
9 of a professional practice are exempt from this section."

10

11 **Section 2.** Section 45-9-103, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"45-9-103. Criminal possession with intent to distribute.** (1) Except as provided in Title 16,
13 chapter 12, a person commits the offense of criminal possession with intent to distribute if the person
14 possesses with intent to distribute any dangerous drug as defined in 50-32-101 ~~[in an amount]~~ in an amount
15 greater than permitted or for which a penalty is not specified under Title 16, chapter 12.

16 (2) (a) A person convicted of criminal possession with intent to distribute shall be imprisoned in the
17 state prison for a term of not more than 20 years or be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000, or both.

18 (b) If the provisions of 46-1-401 have been complied with, a person who has been found guilty of
19 this offense and who, while engaged in the commission of the offense, knowingly ~~possessed or~~ used a firearm,
20 a destructive device as defined in 45-8-332, or another dangerous weapon shall, in addition to the penalty
21 provided for the commission of the underlying offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the state
22 prison of not less than 2 years or more than 10 years, except as provided in 46-18-222.

23 (3) Practitioners, as defined in 50-32-101, and agents under their supervision acting in the course
24 of a professional practice are exempt from this section."

25 - END -