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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

Introduced By: Representatives Blazewski, Slater, Diaz, Craven, and Knight

Date Introduced: January 13, 2017

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 12-19-8, 12-19-9, 12-19-14, 12-19-15, 12-19-19 and 12-19-34 of  
2 the General Laws in Chapter 12-19 entitled "Sentence and Execution" are hereby amended to  
3 read as follows:

4           **12-19-8. Suspension of sentence and probation by superior or district court.**

5           (a) Application. - Except where the suspension of sentence shall otherwise be prohibited  
6 by law, and subject to the purposes and limits imposed by this section and §12-19-8.1, whenever  
7 any defendant shall appear for sentence before the superior or district court, the court may impose  
8 a sentence and suspend the execution of the sentence, in whole or in part, or place the defendant  
9 on probation without the imposition of a suspended sentence. The suspension shall place the  
10 defendant on probation for the time ~~and on any terms and conditions~~ of probation that the court  
11 may fix and pursuant to the terms and conditions set by §12-19-8.1.

12           (b) Duration. - The period of probation for a felony shall be set for a period of time as  
13 required by law, or in accordance with judicial sentencing benchmarks. ~~, where no sentence is~~  
14 ~~imposed or where sentence is entirely suspended;~~ The period of probation for a misdemeanor,  
15 where no sentence is imposed or where sentence is entirely suspended, may be for any period up  
16 to the maximum time of sentence provided by applicable statutes. Where sentence is imposed and  
17 suspended in part, the term ordered to be served and the period of probation together shall not  
18 exceed the maximum time of sentence provided by applicable statutes.

19           (c) ~~At any time during the term of a sentence imposed, the probation and parole unit of~~

1 ~~the department of corrections may seek permission of the superior or district court to modify a~~  
2 ~~defendant's conditions of probation set at the time of sentence by either imposing additional~~  
3 ~~conditions of probation or removing previously imposed conditions of probation to provide for~~  
4 ~~more effective supervision of the defendant. Failure of the defendant to comply with modified~~  
5 ~~conditions of probation may result in a violation of probation being filed pursuant to § 12-19-9.~~

6 **12-19-9. Violation of terms of probation -- Notice to attorney general -- Revocation**  
7 **or continuation of suspension.**

8 (a) Whenever any person who has been placed on probation pursuant to § 12-9-8 violates  
9 the terms and conditions of his or her probation as fixed by the court, the police or the probation  
10 authority shall inform the attorney general of the violation, and the attorney general shall cause  
11 the defendant to appear before the court. The department of corrections ~~court may request the~~  
12 ~~division of field rehabilitative services to~~ shall promptly render a report relative to the conduct of  
13 the defendant, ~~and, pending receipt of the report, and the information contained in any report~~  
14 under §12-13-24.1. The division of rehabilitative services may recommend that the time served  
15 up to that point is a sufficient response to a violation that is not a new alleged crime. The court  
16 may order the defendant held without bail for a period not exceeding ten (10) days, excluding  
17 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

18 (b) The court shall conduct a hearing within thirty (30) days of arrest unless waived by  
19 the defendant to determine whether the defendant has violated the terms and conditions of his or  
20 her probation, at which hearing the defendant shall have the opportunity to be present and to  
21 respond. Upon a determination by a fair preponderance of the evidence that the defendant has  
22 violated the terms and conditions of his or her probation the court, in open court and in the  
23 presence of the defendant, may:

24 (1) Remove ~~remove~~ the suspension and order the defendant committed on the sentence  
25 previously imposed, or on a lesser sentence, ~~or~~ ;

26 (2) Impose ~~impose~~ a sentence if one has not been previously imposed, ~~or may~~ ;

27 (3) Stay all or a portion of the sentence imposed after removal of the suspension;

28 (4) Continue ~~continue~~ the suspension of a sentence previously imposed, ~~as to the court~~  
29 ~~may seem just and proper. ; or~~

30 (5) Convert a sentence of probation without incarceration to a suspended sentence.

31 (c) The court shall sentence for a violation under subsection (b) of this section in  
32 accordance with judicial sentencing benchmarks.

33 **12-19-14. Violation of terms of probation -- Notice to court -- Revocation or**  
34 **continuation of suspension.**

1           (a) Whenever any person, who has been placed on probation by virtue of the suspension  
2 of execution of his or her sentence pursuant to § 12-19-13, violates the terms and conditions of  
3 his or her probation as fixed by the court, the police or department of corrections division of ~~field~~  
4 rehabilitative services shall cause the defendant to appear before the court. The ~~court may require~~  
5 ~~the~~ division of ~~field~~ rehabilitative services ~~to~~ shall promptly render a written report relative to the  
6 conduct of the defendant, ~~and, pending receipt of the report, and the information contained in any~~  
7 report under §12-13-24.1. The division of rehabilitative services may recommend that the time  
8 served up to that point is a sufficient response to a violation that is not a new alleged crime. The  
9 court may order the defendant held without bail for a period not exceeding ten (10) days  
10 excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

11           (b) The court shall conduct a hearing within thirty (30) days of arrest unless waived by  
12 the defendant to determine whether the defendant has violated the terms and conditions of his or  
13 her probation, at which hearing the defendant shall have the opportunity to be present and to  
14 respond. Upon a determination by a fair preponderance of the evidence that the defendant has  
15 violated the terms and conditions of his or her probation the court, in open court and in the  
16 presence of the defendant, may as to the court may seem just and proper:

17           (1) Revoke ~~revoke~~ the suspension and order the defendant committed on the sentence  
18 previously imposed, or on a lesser sentence, ~~or may continue the suspension as to the court may~~  
19 ~~seem just and proper. ;~~

20           (2) Impose a sentence if one has not been previously imposed;

21           (3) Stay all or a portion of the sentence imposed after removal of the suspension;

22           (4) Continue the suspension of a sentence previously imposed; or

23           (5) Convert a sentence of probation without incarceration to a suspended sentence.

24           **12-19-15. Term of probation -- Power to commit after termination of original**  
25 **sentence.**

26           The power of the court to commit the defendant shall not be deemed to terminate with the  
27 termination of the period of the original sentence, but the court shall have power to enforce the  
28 sentence even though the original period of the sentence has expired. The term of the suspended  
29 sentence may be longer or shorter or for the same time as the probation period, and the time  
30 during which the defendant is on probation shall not be deemed by §§ 12-19-13 -- 12-19-17 to be  
31 a part of the term of his or her sentence, although the court, in its discretion, may give  
32 consideration to the probationer's conduct during the probationary period in imposing a sanction  
33 or enforcing the sentence originally imposed, or any lesser sentence.

34           **12-19-19. Sentencing on plea of guilty or nolo contendere -- Deferment of sentence.**

1 (a) Whenever any person is arraigned before the superior court and pleads guilty or nolo  
2 contendere, he or she may be at any time sentenced by the court; provided, that if at any time the  
3 court formally defers sentencing, then the person and the ~~attorney general~~ court shall enter into a  
4 written deferral agreement to be filed with the clerk of the court. When a court formally defers  
5 sentence, the court may only impose sentence ~~within up to~~ five (5) years from and after the date  
6 of the written deferral agreement, unless during the ~~five (5) year~~ required period, the person shall  
7 be declared to have violated the terms and conditions of the deferment pursuant to subsection (b)  
8 in which event the court may impose sentence.

9 (b) ~~It shall be an express condition of any deferment of sentence in accordance with this~~  
10 ~~section~~ The court may require that the person agreeing to said deferment of sentence shall not  
11 violate any condition of the written deferral agreement ~~at all times during the period of deferment~~  
12 ~~keep the peace and be of good behavior~~. A violation of ~~this express condition or~~ any ~~other~~  
13 condition set forth by ~~either the court or~~ the written deferral agreement shall violate the terms and  
14 conditions of the deferment of sentence and the court may impose a sanction or impose sentence.  
15 The determination of whether a violation has occurred shall be made by the court in accordance  
16 with procedures relating to violation of probation in court rules and §§ 12-19-2 and 12-19-14.

17 (c) If a person, after the completion of the ~~five year (5)~~ deferment period is determined  
18 by the court after a hearing to have complied with all of the terms and conditions of the deferral  
19 agreement including, but not limited to, the payment in full of any court-ordered fines, fees, costs,  
20 assessments, and restitution to victims of crime, then the person shall become immediately  
21 eligible for consideration for expungement pursuant to the provisions of §§ 12-1.3-2 and 12-1.3-  
22 3.

### 23 **12-19-34. Priority of restitution payments to victims of crime.**

24 (a) (1) If a person, pursuant to §§ 12-19-32, 12-19-32.1, or 12-19-33, is ordered to make  
25 restitution in the form of monetary payment the court may order that it shall be made through the  
26 administrative office of state courts which shall record all payments and pay the money to the  
27 person injured in accordance with the order or with any modification of the order; provided, in  
28 cases where ~~court ordered restitution totals less than two hundred dollars (\$200)~~ the court  
29 determines that the defendant has the present ability to make full restitution, payment shall be  
30 made at the time of sentencing ~~if the court determines that the defendant has the present ability to~~  
31 ~~make restitution.~~

32 (2) Payments made on account when both restitution to a third-party is ordered, and court  
33 costs, fines, and fees, and assessments related to prosecution are owed, shall be disbursed by the  
34 administrative office of the state courts in the following priorities:

1 (i) Upon determination of restitution, court ordered restitution payments shall be paid  
2 first to persons injured until such time as the court's restitution is fully satisfied;

3 (ii) Followed by the payment of court costs, fines, fees, and assessments related to  
4 prosecution.

5 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any interest which has been accrued by  
6 the restitution account in the central registry shall be deposited on a regular basis into the crime  
7 victim compensation fund, established by chapter 25 of this title. In the event that the office of the  
8 administrator of the state courts cannot locate the person or persons to whom restitution is to be  
9 made, the principal of the restitution payment shall escheat to the state pursuant to the provisions  
10 of chapter 8-12.

11 (b) The state is authorized to develop rules and/or regulations relating to assessment,  
12 collection, and disbursement of restitution payments when any of the following events occur:

13 (1) The defendant is incarcerated or on home confinement [or has completed probation](#)  
14 [without completing restitution](#) but is able to pay some portion of the restitution; or

15 (2) The victim dies before restitution payments are completed.

16 (c) The state may maintain a civil action to place a lien on the personal or real property  
17 of a defendant who is assessed restitution, as well as to seek wage garnishment, [and/or seek](#)  
18 [enforcement of civil judgment entered in accordance with §12-28-5.1](#) consistent with state and  
19 federal law.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 12-19 of the General Laws entitled "Sentence and Execution" is  
21 hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

22 **12-19-8.1. Conditions of probation.**

23 [\(a\) The following shall constitute basic conditions of probation applicable to all](#)  
24 [defendants upon whom a period of probation has been imposed:](#)

25 [\(1\) Obey all laws;](#)

26 [\(2\) Report to the probation officer and parole officer as directed;](#)

27 [\(3\) Remain within the state of Rhode Island except with the prior approval, specifically](#)  
28 [or as an agreed routine, of the probation and parole office;](#)

29 [\(4\) Notify the probation and parole officer immediately of any change of address,](#)  
30 [telephone number, or employment;](#)

31 [\(5\) Make every effort to keep steadily employed or attend school or vocational training;](#)

32 [\(6\) Waive extradition from anywhere in the United States to Rhode Island, if required to](#)  
33 [appear in any Rhode Island court;](#)

34 [\(7\) Provide a DNA sample if required by §§12-1.5-7 and 12-1.5-8;](#)

1           (8) Pay restitution, court costs, and fines, if assessed, in one or several sums, based on the  
2 defendant's ability to pay; and

3           (9) Submit to a risk and needs assessment.

4           (b) Special probation conditions related to community service, computer restrictions, no  
5 contact orders, or any other conditions deemed just and reasonable may be imposed at the  
6 discretion of the court.

7           (c) At any time during the term of a sentence imposed, the probation and parole unit of  
8 the department of corrections may seek permission of the superior or district court to modify a  
9 defendant's basic conditions or special conditions of treatment or counseling by either imposing  
10 additional conditions or removing previously imposed conditions of probation to provide for  
11 more effective supervision of the defendant.

12           (d) Failure of the defendant to comply with modified conditions of probation constitutes a  
13 violation.

14           **12-19-40. Severability.**

15           If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstances is held  
16 invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter which can be  
17 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
18 chapter are declared to be severable.

19           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall be applicable to all cases  
20 pending as of the effective date.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- SENTENCE AND EXECUTION

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1           This act would make several changes to the sentencing and execution guidelines for  
2 purposes of criminal procedure and would add new conditions of criminal probation.

3           This act would take effect upon passage and would be applicable to all cases pending as  
4 of the effective date.

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