
DIGEST

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HB 59 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Marcelle

Abstract: Amends the criminal penalties for a first conviction of possession of marijuana.

Present law provides for the following penalties with regard to a first conviction of possession of marijuana:

- (1) Offender possesses 14 grams or less - fined up to \$300, imprisoned for not more than 15 days, or both.
- (2) Offender possesses more than 14 grams - fined up to \$500, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

Proposed law amends the penalties for a first conviction of possession of marijuana as follows:

- (1) Offender possesses 14 grams or less - fined up to \$300 or sentenced to not more than 48 hours of court-approved community service. Removes the present law term of imprisonment.
- (2) Offender possesses more than 14 grams but less than 28 grams - fined up to \$300, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. In addition, the court may sentence the offender to perform not more than 48 hours of court-approved community service.
- (3) Offender possesses 28 grams or more - fined up to \$500, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. In addition, the court may sentence the offender to perform not more than 48 hours of court-approved community service.

(Amends R.S. 40:966(C)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. For first convictions, when the offender possesses 14 grams or less of marijuana, provide that the offender shall be fined not more than \$300 or sentenced to not more than 48 hours of court-approved community service.

2. For other first convictions of possession of marijuana, in addition to the fines or terms of imprisonment, provide that the court may sentence the offender to perform not more than 48 hours of court-approved community service.