
DIGEST

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HB 178 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Marino

Abstract: Provides relative to the court's authority to defer a sentence for a violation of certain Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law offenses and provides that the restriction of certain dismissals of prosecution may occur only twice.

Present law provides that the court shall not defer a sentence for an offense or an attempted offense that is designated in the court minutes as a crime of violence or that is defined as a sex offense, involving a child under the age of 17 years or for a violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than five years or for a violation of present law.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that the court shall not defer a sentence for a violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 10 years, instead of five years, or for a violation of present law.

Present law provides that upon motion of the defendant, if the court finds at the conclusion of the probationary period that the probation of the defendant has been satisfactory, the court may set the conviction aside and dismiss the prosecution. Present law further provides that the dismissal shall occur only once with respect to any person.

Proposed law increases the limitations on the number of dismissals from prosecution pursuant to present law from not more than once to not more than twice.

Present law provides that when a case is accepted into a drug court division probation program pursuant to present law and at the conclusion of the probationary period the court finds that the defendant has successfully completed all conditions of probation, the court with the concurrence of the district attorney may set aside the conviction and dismiss prosecution. Present law further provides that the dismissal may occur only once with respect to any person.

Proposed law increases the limitations on the number of dismissals from prosecution pursuant to present law from not more than once to not more than twice.

Present law provides that when a defendant, who has been committed to the custody of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to serve a sentence in the intensive incarceration program pursuant to present law, has successfully completed the intensive incarceration program as well as successfully completed all other conditions of parole or probation, and if the defendant is otherwise eligible, the court with the concurrence of the district attorney may set aside the conviction and

dismiss prosecution. Present law further provides that the dismissal may occur only once with respect to any person.

Proposed law increases the limitations on the number of dismissals from prosecution pursuant to present law from not more than once to not more than twice.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 893(E)(1)(b), (2), (3)(c), and (4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Restore the present law prohibition on deferral of a sentence for certain violations of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law, except that the prohibition will only apply to offenses punishable by a term of imprisonment for more than 10 years.
2. Increase the limitations on the number of dismissals from prosecution pursuant to present law from not more than once to not more than twice.