

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 247 (HB 652)

2021 Regular Session

Glover

Prior law provided for a fine of up to \$300, imprisonment for not more than 15 days, or both, with regard to a first conviction for possession of marijuana when the offender possessed **14 grams or less** and provided for enhanced penalties for subsequent convictions.

New law provides that the penalty for possession of **14 grams or less** of marijuana for first or subsequent convictions is a fine of up to \$100.

Existing law provides for a fine of up to \$500, imprisonment for not more than six months, or both with regard to a first conviction for possession of marijuana when the offender possesses **more than 14 grams** and provides for enhanced penalties for subsequent convictions.

New law retains existing law with respect to convictions for possession of **more than 14 grams**.

New law further provides that if an offender upon whom a fine has been imposed for possession of **14 grams or less** alleges indigency or otherwise fails to pay the imposed fine, the court shall determine whether the defendant has willfully refused to pay or has made bona fide efforts to legally acquire resources to pay. If an offender has not willfully refused to pay and has made bona fide efforts to attempt to pay the fine imposed, the court shall use its discretion to alternatives, including installment payments or community service.

New law provides for enforcement of new law for possession of **14 grams or less** by use of summons.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 40:966(C)(2)(a), (d), (e)(i), and (f)(i))