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*** Bill No. ***

Introduced By *****

By Request of the (Agency or Department)

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act revising penalties and eliminating jail time for certain misdemeanor offenses; amending sections 45-6-301, 45-6-302, 45-6-305, 45-6-316, 45-8-101, 45-8-111, 61-5-102, 61-5-212, 61-6-302 and 61-6-304, MCA; and providing an applicability date and an effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

Section 1. Section 45-6-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-6-301. Theft. (1) A person commits the offense of theft when the person purposely or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over property of the owner and:

(a) has the purpose of depriving the owner of the property;

(b) purposely or knowingly uses, conceals, or abandons the property in a manner that deprives the owner of the property; or

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(c) uses, conceals, or abandons the property knowing that the use, concealment, or abandonment probably will deprive the owner of the property.

(2) A person commits the offense of theft when the person purposely or knowingly obtains by threat or deception control over property of the owner and:

(a) has the purpose of depriving the owner of the property;

(b) purposely or knowingly uses, conceals, or abandons the property in a manner that deprives the owner of the property; or

(c) uses, conceals, or abandons the property knowing that the use, concealment, or abandonment probably will deprive the owner of the property.

(3) A person commits the offense of theft when the person purposely or knowingly obtains control over stolen property knowing the property to have been stolen by another and:

(a) has the purpose of depriving the owner of the property;

(b) purposely or knowingly uses, conceals, or abandons the property in a manner that deprives the owner of the property; or

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(c) uses, conceals, or abandons the property knowing that the use, concealment, or abandonment probably will deprive the owner of the property.

(4) A person commits the offense of theft when the person purposely or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over any part of any public assistance provided under Title 52 or 53 by a state or county agency, regardless of the original source of assistance, by means of:

(a) a knowingly false statement, representation, or impersonation; or

(b) a fraudulent scheme or device.

(5) A person commits the offense of theft when the person purposely or knowingly obtains or exerts or helps another obtain or exert unauthorized control over any part of any benefits provided under Title 39, chapter 71, by means of:

(a) a knowingly false statement, representation, or impersonation; or

(b) deception or other fraudulent action.

(6) (a) A person commits the offense of theft when the person purposely or knowingly commits insurance fraud as provided in 33-1-1202 or 33-1-1302;

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(b) purposely or knowingly diverts or misappropriates insurance premiums as provided in 33-17-1102; or

(c) purposely or knowingly receives small business health insurance premium incentive payments or premium assistance payments or tax credits under Title 33, chapter 22, part 20, to which the person is not entitled.

(7) A person commits the offense of theft of property by embezzlement when, with the purpose to deprive the owner of the property, the person:

(a) purposely or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over property of the person's employer or over property entrusted to the person; or

(b) purposely or knowingly obtains by deception control over property of the person's employer or over property entrusted to the person.

(8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b), a person convicted of the offense of theft of property not exceeding \$1,500 in value shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$1,500 ~~or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.~~ A person convicted of a second offense shall be fined \$1,500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both. A person convicted of a third or subsequent offense shall

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be fined \$1,500 and be imprisoned in the county jail for a term of not less than 30 days or more than 6 months.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (8)(c), a person convicted of the offense of theft of property exceeding \$1,500 in value or theft of any amount of anhydrous ammonia for the purpose of manufacturing dangerous drugs shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000 or be imprisoned in a state prison for a term not to exceed 10 years, or both.

(ii) A person convicted of the theft of any commonly domesticated hoofed animal shall be fined an amount of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$50,000 or be imprisoned in a state prison for a term not to exceed 10 years, or both. If a prison term is deferred, the court shall order the offender to perform 416 hours of community service during a 1-year period, in the offender's county of residence. In addition to the fine and imprisonment, the offender's property is subject to criminal forfeiture pursuant to 45-6-328 and 45-6-329.

(c) A person convicted of the offense of theft of property exceeding \$10,000 in value by embezzlement shall be imprisoned in a state prison for a term of not less than 1 year or more than 10 years and may be fined an amount not

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to exceed \$50,000. The court may, in its discretion, place the person on probation with the requirement that restitution be made under terms set by the court. If the terms are not met, the required prison term may be ordered.

(9) Amounts involved in thefts committed pursuant to a common scheme or the same transaction, whether from the same person or several persons, may be aggregated in determining the value of the property."

{*Internal References to 45-6-301:*
26-1-608 27-1-718 33-1-1211 33-1-1302
33-17-1102 33-18-401 33-22-2009 39-51-3203
39-71-316 39-71-316 39-71-316 39-71-701
39-71-702 39-71-1006 45-1-205 45-6-314
45-6-315 45-6-328 45-6-328 45-6-328
45-6-328 45-6-328 45-6-328 45-6-328
45-6-328 45-6-328 45-6-328 45-8-405
53-2-107 53-9-111 61-5-205 69-14-1206
69-14-1206 }

Section 2. Section 45-6-302, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-6-302. Theft of lost or mislaid property. (1) A person who obtains control over lost or mislaid property commits the offense of theft when the person:

(a) knows or learns the identity of the owner or knows, is aware of, or learns of a reasonable method of identifying the owner;

(b) fails to take reasonable measures to restore the property to the owner; and

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(c) has the purpose of depriving the owner permanently of the use or benefit of the property.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), aA
person convicted of theft of lost or mislaid property:

(i)not exceeding \$1,500 in value shall be fined an
amount not to exceed \$500; or

(ii) exceeding \$1,500 in value shall be fined an
amount not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county
jail for a period not to exceed 6 months.

(b) A person convicted of a second or subsequent
offense of theft of lost or mislaid property shall be fined
an amount not to exceed \$500 or be imprisoned in the county
jail for a period not to exceed 6 months."

{*Internal References to 45-6-302: None* }

Section 3. Section 45-6-305, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-6-305. Theft of labor or services or use of property. (1) A person commits the offense of theft when the person obtains the temporary use of property, labor, or services of another that are available only for hire, by means of threat or deception or knowing that the use is without the consent of the person providing the property, labor, or services.

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(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), aA
person convicted of theft of labor or services or use of
property shall be fined not to exceed \$500 ~~or be imprisoned~~
~~in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or~~
~~both.~~

(b) A person convicted of a second or subsequent
offense of theft of labor or services or use of property
shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$500 or be
imprisoned in the county jail for a period not to exceed 6
months."

{*Internal References to 45-6-305:*
45-6-306 }

Section 4. Section 45-6-316, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-6-316. Issuing a bad check. (1) A person commits
the offense of issuing a bad check when the person issues
or delivers a check or other order upon a real or
fictitious depository for the payment of money knowing that
it will not be paid by the depository.

(2) If the offender has an account with the
depository, failure to make good the check or other order
within 5 days after written notice of nonpayment has been
received by the issuer is prima facie evidence that the
offender knew that it would not be paid by the depository.

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(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), aA
person convicted of issuing a bad check shall be fined not
to exceed \$1,500 ~~or be imprisoned in the county jail for~~
~~any term not to exceed 6 months, or both.~~

(b) If the offender has engaged in issuing bad checks
that are part of a common scheme or if the value of any
property, labor, or services obtained or attempted to be
obtained exceeds \$1,500, the offender shall be fined not to
exceed \$50,000 or be imprisoned in the state prison for a
~~any~~ term not to exceed 10 years, or both."

{*Internal References to 45-6-316:*
27-1-717 44-1-1103 }

Section 5. Section 45-8-101, MCA, is amended to read:

"**45-8-101. Disorderly conduct.** (1) A person commits
the offense of disorderly conduct if the person knowingly
disturbs the peace by:

- (a) quarreling, challenging to fight, or fighting;
- (b) making loud or unusual noises;
- (c) using threatening, profane, or abusive language;
- (d) rendering vehicular or pedestrian traffic

impassable;

(e) rendering the free ingress or egress to public or
private places impassable;

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(f) disturbing or disrupting any lawful assembly or public meeting;

(g) transmitting a false report or warning of a fire or other catastrophe in a place where its occurrence would endanger human life;

(h) creating a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act that serves no legitimate purpose; or

(i) transmitting a false report or warning of an impending explosion in a place where its occurrence would endanger human life.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a person convicted of the offense of disorderly conduct shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$100 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed ~~10 days~~ 1 day, or both.

(3) A person convicted of a violation of subsection (1)(i) shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$1,000 or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 1 year, or both."

{*Internal References to 45-8-101:*
23-1-122 23-2-526 87-1-506 }

Section 6. Section 45-8-111, MCA, is amended to read:

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"45-8-111. Public nuisance. (1) "Public nuisance"

means:

(a) a condition that endangers safety or health, is offensive to the senses, or obstructs the free use of property so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by an entire community or neighborhood or by any considerable number of persons;

(b) any premises where persons gather for the purpose of engaging in unlawful conduct; or

(c) a condition that renders dangerous for passage any public highway or right-of-way or waters used by the public.

(2) A person commits the offense of maintaining a public nuisance if the person knowingly creates, conducts, or maintains a public nuisance.

(3) Any act that affects an entire community or neighborhood or any considerable number of persons, as specified in subsection (1)(a), is no less a nuisance because the extent of the annoyance or damage inflicted upon individuals is unequal.

(4) An agricultural or farming operation, a place, an establishment, or a facility or any of its appurtenances or the operation of those things is not or does not become a

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public nuisance because of its normal operation as a result of changed residential or commercial conditions in or around its locality if the agricultural or farming operation, place, establishment, or facility has been in operation longer than the complaining resident has been in possession or commercial establishment has been in operation.

(5) Noises resulting from the shooting activities at a shooting range during established hours of operation are not considered a public nuisance.

(6) A person convicted of maintaining a public nuisance shall be fined not to exceed \$500 ~~or be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not to exceed 6 months, or both.~~ Each day of the conduct constitutes a separate offense."

{*Internal References to 45-8-111:*

7-14-2141 16-6-312 23-1-122 23-2-526
87-1-506 }

Section 7. Section 61-5-102, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-5-102. Drivers to be licensed -- penalties.

(1) (a) Except as provided in 61-5-104, a person may not drive a motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless the person has a valid Montana driver's license. A person

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may not receive a Montana driver's license until the person surrenders to the department all valid driver's licenses issued by any other jurisdiction. A person may not have in the person's possession or under the person's control more than one valid Montana driver's license at any time.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (1)(c), the penalty for a ~~first~~ violation of this section is a fine of not more than \$500, ~~imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both a fine and imprisonment. The penalty for second and subsequent violations of this section is a fine of not more than \$500 and imprisonment for not less than 2 days or more than 6 months.~~

(c) A person who is eligible to hold a driver's license and has obtained a valid driver's license but has not renewed the license as provided in 61-5-111(3)(c) is not subject to the penalties in subsection (1)(b).

(2) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsection (2)(a)(ii), a license is not valid for the operation of a motorcycle unless the holder of the license has completed the requirements of 61-5-110 and the license has been clearly marked with the words "motorcycle endorsement".

(ii) A motorcycle endorsement is not required for the operation of a low-speed electric vehicle or a motorcycle

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that is propelled by an electric motor or other device that transforms stored electrical energy into the motion of the vehicle, has a fully enclosed cab, is equipped with three wheels in contact with the ground, and is equipped with a seat and seatbelts.

(b) A license is not valid for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle unless the holder of the license has completed the requirements of 61-5-110, the license has been clearly marked with the words "commercial driver's license", and the license bears the proper endorsement for:

(i) the specific vehicle type or types being operated; or

(ii) the passengers or type or types of cargo being transported.

(3) A low-speed restricted driver's license is not valid for the operation of a motor vehicle other than a low-speed electric vehicle or a golf cart.

(4) When a city or town requires a licensed driver to obtain a local driving license or permit, a license or permit may not be issued unless the applicant presents a state driver's license valid under the provisions of this chapter."

{Internal References to 61-5-102:

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61-5-104 61-5-212 }

Section 8. Section 61-5-212, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-5-212. Driving while license suspended or revoked -- penalty -- second offense of driving without valid license or licensing exemption -- seizure of vehicle or rendering vehicle inoperable. (1) (a) A person commits the offense of driving a motor vehicle without a valid license or without statutory exemption or during a suspension or revocation period if the person drives:

(i) a motor vehicle on any public highway of this state at a time when the person's privilege to drive or apply for and be issued a driver's license is suspended or revoked in this state or any other state;

(ii) a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license is revoked, suspended, or canceled in this state or any other state or the person is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle or from obtaining a commercial driver's license; or

(iii) a motor vehicle on any public highway of this state without possessing a valid driver's license, as provided in 61-5-102, or without proof of a statutory exemption, as provided in 61-5-104.

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(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii), a person convicted of the offense of driving a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license or without proof of a statutory exemption for the second time or driving during a suspension or revocation period shall be ~~punished by imprisonment for not less than 2 days or more than 6 months and may be~~ fined not more than \$500.

(ii) If the reason for the suspension or revocation was that the person was convicted of a violation of 61-8-401, 61-8-406, or 61-8-411 or a similar offense under the laws of any other state or the suspension was under 61-8-402 or 61-8-409 or a similar law of any other state for refusal to take a test for alcohol or drugs requested by a peace officer who believed that the person might be driving under the influence, the person shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than 2 days or more than 6 months or a fine not to exceed \$2,000, or both, and in addition, the court may order the person to perform up to 40 hours of community service.

(2) (a) Upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person under this section upon a charge of driving a noncommercial vehicle while the person's driver's license, privilege to drive, or privilege to apply for and be issued

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a driver's license was suspended or revoked, the department shall extend the period of suspension or revocation for an additional 1-year period.

(b) Upon receiving a record of the conviction of any person under this section upon a charge of driving a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license was revoked, suspended, or canceled or the person was disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle under federal regulations, the department shall suspend the person's commercial driver's license in accordance with 61-8-802.

(3) The vehicle owned and operated at the time of an offense under this section by a person whose driver's license is suspended for violating the provisions of 61-8-401, 61-8-402, 61-8-406, 61-8-409, 61-8-410, or 61-8-411 must, upon a person's first conviction, be seized or rendered inoperable by the county sheriff of the convicted person's county of residence for a period of 30 days.

(4) The sentencing court shall order the action provided for under subsection (3) and shall specify the date on which the vehicle is to be returned or again rendered operable. The vehicle must be seized or rendered

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inoperable by the sheriff within 10 days after the conviction.

(5) A convicted person is responsible for all costs associated with actions taken under subsection (3). Joint ownership of the vehicle with another person does not prohibit the actions required by subsection (3) unless the sentencing court determines that those actions would constitute an extreme hardship on a joint owner who is determined to be without fault.

(6) A court may not suspend or defer imposition of penalties provided by this section."

{*Internal References to 61-5-212:*
61-8-422 61-8-733 61-8-733 }

Section 9. Section 61-6-302, MCA, is amended to read:

"**61-6-302. Proof of compliance.** (1) The registration receipt required by 61-3-322 must contain a statement that unless the vehicle is eligible for an exemption under 61-6-303, it is unlawful to operate the vehicle without a valid motor vehicle liability insurance policy, a certificate of self-insurance, or a posted indemnity bond, as required by 61-6-301.

(2) Each owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall carry in the motor vehicle an insurance card approved by

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the department but issued by the insurance carrier to the motor vehicle owner as proof of compliance with 61-6-301. If the card is issued under a commercial automobile insurance policy or a self-insured fleet, the card must indicate the status as "commercially insured" or "fleet". A motor vehicle owner or operator shall exhibit the insurance card upon demand of a justice of the peace, a city or municipal judge, a peace officer, a highway patrol officer, or a field deputy or inspector of the department. A person commits an offense under this subsection if the person fails to carry the insurance card in a motor vehicle or fails to exhibit the insurance card upon demand of a person specified in this subsection.

(3) In lieu of charging an operator who is not the owner of a vehicle with violating subsection (2), the officer may issue a complaint and notice to appear charging the owner with a violation of 61-6-301 and serve the complaint and notice to appear on the owner of the vehicle:

(a) personally; or

(b) by certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address for the owner listed on the registration receipt for the vehicle or, following query through available law enforcement systems, at the address

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maintained for the vehicle's owner by the jurisdiction in which the vehicle is titled and registered, or both.

(4) An owner or operator charged with violating subsection (2) may not be convicted if:

(a) the ~~arresting~~ officer or another person authorized to access information from the online motor vehicle liability insurance verification system under 61-6-309 submits to the system, when implemented, a request that provides proof of insurance valid at the time of arrest; or

(b) if the system under 61-6-157 is not available, the person produces in court or the office of the ~~arresting~~ officer proof of insurance valid at the time of arrest."

{*Internal References to 61-6-302:*
61-6-105 61-6-123 61-6-142 61-6-157
61-6-304 61-6-304 61-6-304 61-6-309
61-6-309 61-11-203 }

Section 10. Section 61-6-304, MCA, is amended to read:

"**61-6-304. Penalties.** (1) Conviction of a first offense under 61-6-301 or 61-6-302 is punishable by a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$500 ~~or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 10 days, or both.~~ A second conviction is punishable by a fine of \$350 ~~or by~~

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~~imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 10 days,~~
~~or both.~~ A third or subsequent conviction is punishable by
a fine of \$500 or by imprisonment in the county jail for
not more than 6 months, or both.

(2) Upon a second or subsequent conviction under
61-6-301 or 61-6-302, the sentencing court shall order the
surrender of the vehicle registration receipt and license
plates for the vehicle operated at the time of the offense
if that vehicle was operated by the registered owner or a
member of the registered owner's immediate family or by a
person whose operation of that vehicle was authorized by
the registered owner. The court shall report the surrender
of the registration receipt and license plates to the
department, which shall immediately suspend the vehicle's
registration. The vehicle's registration status may not be
reinstated until proof of compliance with 61-6-301 is
furnished to the department, but if the vehicle is
transferred to a new owner, the new owner is entitled to
register the vehicle. The surrendered license plates must
be recycled or destroyed by the court unless the court
decides to retain the license plates for the owner until
the registration suspension has been completed or the
requirements for a restricted registration receipt have

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been met. Upon proof of compliance with 61-6-301 and payment of fees required under 61-3-333 for replacement license plates and registration decal and under 61-3-341 for a replacement registration receipt, during the period of 90 days from the date of a second conviction or 180 days from the date of a third or subsequent conviction, the department shall issue a restricted registration receipt to the offender. A restricted registration receipt limits the use of the motor vehicle operated at the time of the offense to use solely for employment purposes until the date indicated on the restricted registration receipt.

(3) Upon a fourth or subsequent conviction under 61-6-301 or 61-6-302, the court shall order the surrender of the driver's license of the offender, if the vehicle operated at the time of the offense was registered to the offender or a member of the offender's immediate family. The court shall send the driver's license, along with a copy of the complaint and the dispositional order, to the department, which shall immediately suspend the driver's license. The department may not reinstate a driver's license suspended under this subsection until the registered owner provides the department proof of

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compliance with 61-6-301 and the department determines that the registered owner is otherwise eligible for licensure.

(4) The court may suspend a required fine only upon a determination that the offender is or will be unable to pay the fine.

(5) A court may not defer imposition of penalties provided by this section.

(6) An offender is considered to have been previously convicted for the purposes of sentencing if less than 5 years have elapsed between the commission of the present offense and a previous conviction."

{*Internal References to 61-6-304:*
61-6-105 }

NEW SECTION. **Section 11. Applicability.** [This act] applies to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2015.

NEW SECTION. **Section 12. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

-END-