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Date: (Filing No. H-)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 713, L.D. 967, “An Act To Make Possession of Scheduled Drugs for Personal Use a Civil Penalty”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Decriminalizing First and 2nd Offenses of Possession of Scheduled Drugs'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1106-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2001, c. 383, §125 and affected by §156, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §1107-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2015, c. 496, §§6 to 8, is further amended to read:

1. Except as provided in subsection 2, a person is guilty of unlawful possession of a scheduled drug if the person intentionally or knowingly possesses what that person knows or believes to be a scheduled drug, which is in fact a scheduled drug, and the drug is:

A. A schedule W drug and at the time of the offense the person had one or more convictions for violating this chapter or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that of the Maine offenses under this chapter in another jurisdiction and the drug is:

- (1) Cocaine and the quantity possessed is more than 14 grams;
- (2) Cocaine in the form of cocaine base and the quantity possessed is more than 4 grams; or
- (3) Methamphetamine and the quantity possessed is more than 14 grams.

Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence, except that, for the purposes of this paragraph, the date of a prior conviction may precede the commission of the offense by more than 10 years-;

~~Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;~~

B. Except as provided in paragraph B-1, a schedule W drug and the drug contains:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

- 1 (1) Heroin (diacetylmorphine) and the amount possessed is more than 200
- 2 milligrams;
- 3 (2) Cocaine and the amount possessed is more than 2 grams;
- 4 (3) Cocaine in the form of cocaine base and the amount possessed is more than 2
- 5 grams;
- 6 (4) Oxycodone and the amount possessed is more than 200 milligrams;
- 7 (5) Hydrocodone and the amount possessed is more than 200 milligrams;
- 8 (6) Hydromorphone and the amount possessed is more than 200 milligrams;
- 9 (7) Methamphetamine and the amount possessed is more than 200 milligrams; or
- 10 (8) Fentanyl powder and the amount possessed is more than 200 milligrams;

11 ~~Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;~~

12 B-1. A schedule W drug and that drug contains any of the following and at the time of

13 the offense the person had one or more convictions for violating section 1103, 1105-A,

14 1105-C, 1105-E, 1106 or section 1124 or for engaging in substantially similar conduct

15 in another jurisdiction:

- 16 (1) Heroin (diacetylmorphine);
- 17 (2) Cocaine;
- 18 (3) Cocaine in the form of cocaine base;
- 19 (4) Oxycodone;
- 20 (5) Hydrocodone;
- 21 (6) Hydromorphone;
- 22 (7) Methamphetamine; or
- 23 (8) Fentanyl powder;

24 ~~Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;~~

25 C. A schedule W drug, except as provided in paragraphs A, B and B-1. ~~Violation of~~

26 ~~this paragraph is a Class D crime;~~

27 D. A schedule X drug. ~~Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;~~

28 E. A schedule Y drug. ~~Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime; or~~

29 F. A schedule Z drug. ~~Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime unless the drug~~

30 ~~is marijuana, in which case a violation of this paragraph is:~~

- 31 (1) ~~For possession of over 2 1/2 ounces to 8 ounces of marijuana, a Class E crime;~~
- 32 (2) ~~For possession of over 8 ounces to 16 ounces of marijuana, a Class D crime;~~
- 33 (3) ~~For possession of over one pound to 20 pounds of marijuana, a Class C crime;~~
- 34 ~~and~~
- 35 (4) ~~For possession of over 20 pounds of marijuana, a Class B crime.~~

36 **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §1107-A, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

1 1-A. A first violation of subsection 1 is a civil violation for which the court may impose
2 a sentence of:

3 A. A fine of up to \$100; or

4 B. Referral as an alternative in place of the fine to assessment and treatment by a
5 credentialed treatment professional for behavioral health and substance use disorder.

6 **Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §1107-A, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

7 1-B. A 2nd violation of subsection 1 is a civil violation for which the court may not
8 impose a fine but must refer the defendant to assessment and treatment by a credentialed
9 treatment professional for behavioral health and substance use disorder.

10 **Sec. 5. 17-A MRSA §1107-A, sub-§1-C** is enacted to read:

11 1-C. A 3rd or subsequent violation of subsection 1 is a Class E crime for which the
12 court may impose a sentence of:

13 A. A fine of up to \$300; or

14 B. As an alternative sentence in place of the fine, referral to assessment and treatment
15 by a credentialed treatment professional for behavioral health and substance use
16 disorder.

17 **Sec. 6. 17-A MRSA §1126, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §17, is
18 amended to read:

19 **1. Fine based on value of scheduled drugs at time of offense.** As authorized by
20 section 1706, subsection 3, if the State pleads and proves the value at the time of the
21 commission of a crime of a scheduled drug that is the basis for a conviction under section
22 1103, 1105-A, 1105-B, 1105-C, 1105-D; or 1106 or 1107-A, the convicted person may be
23 sentenced to pay a fine in an amount up to the value, as pleaded and proved by the State,
24 of that scheduled drug.

25 **Sec. 7. 17-A MRSA §1126, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §17, is
26 amended to read:

27 **2. Mandatory minimum fine barring court finding exceptional circumstances.** In
28 addition to any other authorized sentencing alternative specified in section 1502, subsection
29 2 for individuals or section 1502, subsection 7 for organizations, the court shall impose a
30 minimum fine of \$400, none of which may be suspended, except as provided in subsection
31 3, for an individual convicted of a crime under section 1103; 1104; 1105-A; 1105-B;
32 1105-C; 1105-D; 1106; ~~1107-A~~; 1108; 1109; 1110; 1111; 1111-A, subsection 4-A; 1116;
33 1117; or 1118.

34 **Sec. 8. Transfer.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the
35 Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall calculate the amount of savings
36 identified that applies against each General Fund account within the Department of
37 Corrections as a result of changing possession of scheduled drugs from being charged as a
38 crime to a civil violation and shall transfer the amounts up to the amounts as specified by
39 financial order upon the approval of the Governor. These transfers are considered
40 adjustments to appropriations in fiscal year 2021-22 and fiscal year 2022-23.

