

By: Representatives Baker (74th), Moore

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 473

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-15-26, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO INCLUDE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A REGIMENTED INMATE DISCIPLINE  
3 PROGRAM AS A CONDITION FOR PRETRIAL DIVERSION; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-15-26, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 99-15-26. (1) In all criminal cases, felony and  
9 misdemeanor, other than crimes against the person, the circuit or  
10 county court shall be empowered, upon the entry of a plea of  
11 guilty by a criminal defendant, to withhold acceptance of the plea  
12 and sentence thereon pending successful completion of such  
13 conditions as may be imposed by the court pursuant to subsection  
14 (2) of this section. In all misdemeanor criminal cases, other  
15 than crimes against the person, the justice or municipal court  
16 shall be empowered, upon the entry of a plea of guilty by a  
17 criminal defendant, to withhold acceptance of the plea and  
18 sentence thereon pending successful completion of such conditions  
19 as may be imposed by the court pursuant to subsection (2) of this  
20 section. No person having previously qualified under the  
21 provisions of this section or having ever been convicted of a  
22 felony shall be eligible to qualify for release in accordance with  
23 this section. A person shall not be eligible to qualify for  
24 release in accordance with this section if such person has been  
25 charged (a) with an offense pertaining to the sale, barter,  
26 transfer, manufacture, distribution or dispensing of a controlled  
27 substance, or the possession with intent to sell, barter,  
28 transfer, manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled

29 substance, as provided in Section 41-29-139(a)(1), Mississippi  
30 Code of 1972, except for a charge under said provision when the  
31 controlled substance involved is one (1) ounce or less of  
32 marihuana; (b) with an offense pertaining to the possession of one  
33 (1) kilogram or more of marihuana as provided in Section  
34 41-29-139(c)(2)(D), Mississippi Code of 1972; or (c) with an  
35 offense under the Mississippi Implied Consent Law.

36 (2) Conditions which the circuit, county, justice or  
37 municipal court may impose under subsection (1) of this section  
38 shall consist of:

39 (a) Reasonable restitution to the victim of the crime.

40 (b) Performance of not more than nine hundred sixty  
41 (960) hours of public service work approved by the court.

42 (c) Payment of a fine not to exceed the statutory  
43 limit.

44 (d) Successful completion of a regimented inmate  
45 discipline program.

46 (e) Successful completion of drug, alcohol,  
47 psychological or psychiatric treatment or any combination thereof  
48 if the court deems such treatment necessary.

49 (f) The circuit or county court, in its discretion, may  
50 require the defendant to remain in the program subject to good  
51 behavior for a period of time not to exceed five (5) years. The  
52 justice or municipal court, in its discretion, may require the  
53 defendant to remain in the program subject to good behavior for a  
54 period of time not to exceed two (2) years.

55 (3) When the court has imposed upon the defendant the  
56 conditions set out in this section, the court shall release the  
57 bail bond, if any.

58 (4) Upon successful completion of the court-imposed  
59 conditions permitted by subsection (2) of this section, the court  
60 shall direct that the cause be dismissed and the case be closed.

61           (5) Upon petition therefor, the court shall expunge the  
62 record of any case in which an arrest was made, the person  
63 arrested was released and the case was dismissed or the charges  
64 were dropped or there was no disposition of such case.

65           (6) This section shall take effect and be in force from and  
66 after March 31, 1983.

67           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
68 and after July 1, 2004.