

By: Representatives Baker (74th), Moore

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 473
(As Sent to Governor)

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

39 (i) Reasonable restitution to the victim of the
40 crime.

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

43 (iii) Payment of a fine not to exceed the
44 statutory limit.

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

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

54 (b) Conditions which the circuit or county court may
55 impose under subsection (1) of this section also include
56 successful completion of a regimented inmate discipline program.

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

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

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

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

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