

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 1924

Title: An act relating to sex offenses.

Brief Description: Changing the sentencing for sex offenses.

Sponsors: Representatives Ballasiotes, Sheahan, Dickerson, Radcliff, Sheldon, Chopp, Mason, Conway, Costa, Mitchell, K. Schmidt, Buck, Wensman, Schoesler, Parlette, Hankins, Backlund, Johnson, D. Schmidt, Sterk, Sump, Cooke, Mastin, Scott, O'Brien, Cooper, Hatfield, Blalock, Kessler, Mulliken, Cole, Kenney, Gardner, McMorris, Tokuda.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

Staff: Yvonne Walker (786-7841)

Background: The Sentencing Reform Act governs the sentencing of adult felons. The act bases sentencing on the determination of an offender's standard sentencing range, which is calculated using the seriousness level of the current offense and the extent of the offender's criminal history.

First degree rape is committed by a person who has sexual intercourse with another person by forcible compulsion, but only if the perpetrator also commits any one of the following acts: (1) using or threatening to use a deadly weapon; (2) kidnaping the victim; (3) inflicting serious physical injury; or (4) feloniously entering a building or vehicle.

First degree rape has a seriousness level of 11, which, for a first-time offender, yields a standard range of 78 to 102 months (a midpoint of 7.5 years).

Second degree rape is committed by a person who has sexual intercourse under any of the following special circumstances: (1) the perpetrator uses forcible compulsion; (2) the victim is physically or mentally incapable of consent; (3) the victim is developmentally disabled and the perpetrator has supervisory authority over the victim; (4) the sexual intercourse occurs during a health care visit where the victim does not consent to the sexual intercourse while knowing it was not for purposes of treatment; or (5) the victim is not a resident of a facility for the mentally disordered or the chemically dependent, and the perpetrator has supervisory authority over the victim.

Second degree rape has a seriousness level of 10, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 51 to 68 months (a midpoint of five years).

First degree rape of a child is committed by a person who has sexual intercourse with a child when: (1) the victim is less than 12 years old; (2) the perpetrator is at least two years older than the victim;

and (3) the perpetrator is not married to the victim.

First degree rape of a child has a seriousness level of 11, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 78 to 102 months (a midpoint of 7.5 years).

Second degree rape of a child is committed by a person who has sexual intercourse with a child when: (1) the victim is 12 or 13 years old; (2) the perpetrator is at least three years older than the victim; and (3) the perpetrator is not married to the victim.

Second degree rape of a child has a seriousness level of 10, which, for a first-time offender, yields a standard range of 51 to 68 months (a midpoint of five years).

Indecent liberties is committed when a person knowingly causes sexual contact with another person (other than his or her spouse), but only if any one of the special circumstances listed above for second degree rape are also present (i.e., the presence of forcible compulsion, the victim being developmentally disabled, etc.).

Indecent liberties, when committed with forcible compulsion, has a seriousness level of nine, which, for a first-time offender, yields a standard range of 31 to 41 months (a midpoint of 3 years).

Indecent liberties, when committed in any manner other than with forcible compulsion, has a seriousness level of seven, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 15 to 20 months (a midpoint of 1.5 years).

Sexual Offender Special Sentencing Alternative (SOSSA). If the court determines a sex offender should receive a sentence under the sexual offender special sentencing alternative and the offender has a sentence of less than eight years of confinement, the court may suspend the sentence and require the offender to participate in the SOSSA program.

Summary: First degree rape. The seriousness level for first degree rape is raised to 12, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 93 to 123 months (a midpoint of 9 years).

Second degree rape. The seriousness level for second degree rape is raised to 11, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 78 to 102 months (a midpoint of 7.5 years).

First degree rape of a child. The seriousness level for first degree rape of a child is raised to 12, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 93 to 123 months (a midpoint of 9 years).

Second degree rape of a child. The seriousness level for second degree rape of a child is raised to 11, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 78 to 102 months (a midpoint of 7.5 years).

Indecent liberties, when committed with forcible compulsion. The seriousness level for indecent liberties, when committed with forcible compulsion, is raised to 10, which for a first-time offender yields a standard range of 51 to 68 months (a midpoint of 5 years). The seriousness level for indecent liberties, when committed in any manner other than forcible compulsion, is not changed.

Sexual Offender Special Sentencing Alternative (SOSSA). Authorizes the court to sentence a sex offender to a SOSSA program if the offender has received a sentence of less than 11 years of confinement instead of eight years of confinement.

Require the Exercise of Rule- Making Powers: No

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 19, 1997.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.