

**Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Andrea Olsen - (S) Committee of the Whole**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Julianne Burkhardt,

HB0503.001.002

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 503  
2 INTRODUCED BY D. BAUM, J. ISALY, S. KELLY, P. STRAND, J. SECKINGER, M. CUFFE, C. SPRUNGER,  
3 G. LAMMERS, S. VINTON, J. WINDY BOY, G. OBLANDER, J. COHENOUR, D. HAWK, D. HAYMAN, S.  
4 MORIGEAU, S. ESSMANN

5  
6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS REGARDING FLEEING FROM OR ELUDING A  
7 PEACE OFFICER; CLASSIFYING MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY CONVICTIONS; PROVIDING PENALTIES;  
8 REORGANIZING PROVISIONS TO CONFORM TO THE PATTERN IN TITLE 61, CHAPTER 8; AND  
9 AMENDING SECTION 61-8-316, MCA."

10  
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

12  
13 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Fleeing from or eluding peace officer. (1) Except as provided in  
14 subsections (2) and (3), a person convicted of or pleading guilty or no contest to an offense under 61-8-316 is  
15 guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 1 year or fined an amount not to  
16 exceed \$2,000, or both.

17 (2) A person convicted of the offense of aggravated fleeing from or eluding a peace officer under  
18 61-8-316 is guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 5 years or fined an amount not to  
19 exceed \$5,000, or both.

20 (3) A person convicted of an offense of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer during which the  
21 person causes serious bodily injury to or the death of any other person is guilty of a felony and shall be  
22 imprisoned for a term not to exceed 10 years or fined an amount not to exceed \$10,000, or both.

23  
24 **Section 2.** Section 61-8-316, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"61-8-316. Fleeing from or eluding peace officer.** (1) A person operating a motor vehicle commits  
26 the offense of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer if a uniformed peace officer operating a police vehicle in  
27 the lawful performance of the peace officer's duty gives the person a visual or audible signal by hand, voice,

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1 emergency light, or siren directing the person to stop the motor vehicle and the person knowingly fails to obey  
2 the signal by ~~refusing to bring the motor vehicle to a stop,~~ increasing the speed of the motor vehicle, continuing  
3 at a speed that is 10 or more miles an hour above the applicable speed limit, extinguishing the motor vehicle's  
4 lights, or otherwise fleeing from, eluding, or attempting to flee from or elude the peace officer.

5 (2) ~~—(a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a person convicted of or pleading guilty or nolo~~  
6 ~~contendere to an offense under subsection (1) shall be imprisoned for a term not to exceed 1 year or fined an~~  
7 ~~amount not to exceed \$2,000, or both.~~

8 (b) ~~—A person convicted of an offense of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer during which the~~  
9 ~~person causes serious bodily injury to or the death of any other person shall be imprisoned for a term not to~~  
10 ~~exceed 10 years or fined an amount not to exceed \$10,000, or both.~~

11 (2) A person commits the offense of aggravated fleeing from or eluding a peace officer if:

12 (a) the person has previously been convicted of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer under this  
13 section; or

14 (b) in the course of fleeing from or eluding a peace officer, the person:

15 (i) exhibits reckless driving behavior as provided in 61-8-301, including intentionally steering the  
16 motor vehicle toward any other person;

17 (ii) causes property damage to the property of any other person in an amount exceeding \$5,000;

18 or

19 (iii) leaves the state.

20 (3) A person who is convicted of or pleads guilty or no contest to a violation of this section is  
21 subject to the penalties provided in [section 1]."

22  
23 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
24 integral part of Title 61, chapter 8, part 7, and the provisions of Title 61, chapter 8, part 7, apply to [section 1].

25 - END -