

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 972**

Introduced by Wayne, 13.

Read first time January 10, 2018

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to criminal procedure; to provide for deferred
- 2 judgments by courts as prescribed; and to provide a duty for the
- 3 Revisor of Statutes.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1)(a) A court may, upon a finding of guilt for which a  
2 judgment of conviction may be rendered, after giving the prosecutor and  
3 the defendant the right to be heard, defer the adjudication of guilt and  
4 the imposition of a sentence and place the defendant on probation, upon  
5 conditions as the court may require under section 29-2262, and retain  
6 power to pronounce judgment and impose a sentence subject to the  
7 defendant's compliance with conditions of probation set by the court as a  
8 condition of the deferred judgment. The defendant shall be responsible  
9 for the payment of all administrative and programming fees as provided in  
10 section 5 of this act upon the entry of a deferred judgment. The  
11 administration, supervision, and revocation of such probation shall be  
12 governed by the Nebraska Probation Administration Act and sections  
13 29-2270 to 29-2273.

14           (b) Upon a showing by the prosecuting attorney that the defendant is  
15 intentionally violating the conditions of probation, the court may revoke  
16 the defendant's probation, pronounce judgment, and impose such new  
17 sentence as would have been imposed originally for the crime for which he  
18 or she was convicted.

19           (c) Upon fulfillment of the conditions of probation and the payment  
20 or waiver of all administrative and programming fees assessed under  
21 section 5 of this act, the defendant shall have his or her charge  
22 dismissed without entry of judgment.

23           (2) A defendant shall not be eligible for a deferred judgment if:

24           (a) The defendant previously has been convicted of a felony anywhere  
25 in the United States;

26           (b) Prior to the commission of the offense, the defendant had been  
27 granted a deferred judgment or substantially similar relief two or more  
28 times anywhere in the United States, except for participation in a  
29 pretrial diversion program established pursuant to sections 29-3601 to  
30 29-3609 or a substantially similar pretrial diversion program in another  
31 jurisdiction;

1       (c) Prior to the commission of the offense the defendant had been  
2 granted a deferred judgment or substantially similar relief for a felony  
3 anywhere in the United States within the preceding five years, measured  
4 from the date of granting of the prior deferred judgment to the date of  
5 commission of the offense, except for participation in a pretrial  
6 diversion program established pursuant to sections 29-3601 to 29-3609 or  
7 a substantially similar pretrial diversion program in another  
8 jurisdiction;

9       (d) The defendant is not eligible for probation; or

10       (e) The defendant is a business entity and not a person.

11       (3) A defendant may be disqualified under subsection (2) of this  
12 section for a previous conviction for a felony or previous grant of  
13 deferred judgment or substantially similar relief arising from the laws  
14 of this state, the United States, the District of Columbia, or any state,  
15 territory, possession, or tribe, only if:

16       (a) In the case of a previous felony, such felony was classified as  
17 a felony by the law under which the defendant was convicted at the time  
18 of such prior conviction; and

19       (b) Such previous felony conviction, deferred judgment, or  
20 substantially similar relief was the result of a case in which:

21       (i) The defendant was represented by counsel in the case or  
22 knowingly and intelligently waived the right to counsel in the case; and

23       (ii) In the case of a prosecution for a crime for which the  
24 defendant was entitled to a jury trial in the jurisdiction in which the  
25 case was tried, either:

26       (A) The case was tried to a jury; or

27       (B) The person knowingly and intelligently waived the right to have  
28 the case tried to a jury.

29       Sec. 2. A deferred judgment under section 1 of this act shall be  
30 entered promptly by the clerk of the court into a statewide data base,  
31 which shall serve as the deferred judgment docket. The deferred judgment

1 docket shall be created and maintained by the State Court Administrator.  
2 The docket shall contain a permanent record of the deferred judgment,  
3 including the name and date of birth of the defendant, the docket number  
4 of the case, the nature of the offense, and the date of the deferred  
5 judgment. Before granting deferred judgment in any case, the court shall  
6 search the deferred judgment docket and consider any prior record of  
7 deferred judgment against the defendant. The permanent record provided  
8 for in this section shall be confidential and not a public record. The  
9 permanent record shall only be made available to the defendant and his or  
10 her attorney, the clerk of the court, any judge or prosecutor in this  
11 state, and any committee or commission tasked by the Legislature with  
12 tracking the implementation of and measuring the efficacy of the deferred  
13 judgment program.

14       Sec. 3. Before entering a deferred judgment under section 1 of this  
15 act, the court first shall determine if entering a deferred judgment will  
16 provide the maximum opportunity for the rehabilitation of the defendant  
17 and will protect the community from further offenses by the defendant. In  
18 making this determination, the court shall consider the age of the  
19 defendant, the defendant's prior record of convictions and deferred  
20 judgments, the defendant's employment and family circumstances, the  
21 defendant's mental health and substance abuse history and treatment  
22 options available in the community and the correctional system, the  
23 nature and circumstances of the offense, and such other factors as are  
24 appropriate. The court may order a presentence investigation pursuant to  
25 section 29-2261 for the purpose of determining whether the defendant is a  
26 suitable candidate for deferred judgment. The court shall file a specific  
27 written statement of its reasons for and the facts supporting its  
28 decision.

29       Sec. 4. (1) The term of probation for a person on probation as a  
30 result of a deferred judgment shall be as follows:

31       (a) For a felony, not less than two years nor more than five years;

1 and

2 (b) For a misdemeanor, not less than one year nor more than two  
3 years.

4 (2) In determining the term of probation, the court shall consider  
5 what period of time is most likely to provide the maximum opportunity for  
6 the rehabilitation of the defendant, what period of time will suffice to  
7 determine whether rehabilitation has been successful, and what period of  
8 time will suffice to protect the community from further offenses by the  
9 defendant.

10 (3) The term of probation may be extended for up to one year subject  
11 to section 29-2263.

12 (4) The court may reduce the term of probation or discharge the  
13 defendant from probation at any time if the court determines that the  
14 purpose of probation has been fulfilled and the administrative and  
15 programming fees imposed under section 5 of this act have been paid or  
16 waived.

17 (5) The court may, as a condition of probation, impose on the  
18 defendant any requirements permitted by section 29-2262. The court may  
19 modify, eliminate, or add further conditions at any time pursuant to  
20 section 29-2263.

21 Sec. 5. Upon entry of a deferred judgment pursuant to section 1 of  
22 this act, the court shall order the defendant to pay all administrative  
23 and programming fees authorized under section 29-2262.06, unless waived  
24 under such section. The defendant shall pay the fees described in section  
25 29-2262.06 to the clerk of the court. The clerk of the court shall remit  
26 all fees so collected to the State Treasurer for credit to the Probation  
27 Program Cash Fund.

28 Sec. 6. An entry of deferred judgment pursuant to section 1 of this  
29 act is a final order as defined by section 25-1902.

30 Sec. 7. Prior to sentencing a defendant who is eligible for  
31 probation, the court shall consider whether to defer judgment and place

1 the defendant on probation pursuant to sections 1 to 6 of this act. If  
2 the court determines that the defendant is not eligible for deferred  
3 judgment or finds substantial cause why the defendant should not be  
4 placed on probation subject to deferred judgment, the court shall proceed  
5 to pronounce judgment as provided by law.

6       Sec. 8. The Revisor of Statutes shall assign sections 1 to 7 of  
7 this act to Chapter 29, article 22.