

H.399

An act relating to incarceration terms for criminal defendants who are primary caretakers of dependent children

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this act is to:

- (1) prevent unnecessary harm to children caused by separation from parents, guardians, caretakers, or family members during incarceration; and
- (2) ensure the fair and compassionate treatment of children whose parents, guardians, caretakers, or family members are involved in the criminal justice system by affording certain basic considerations to these children when decisions are made that affect them.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 7030 is amended to read:

§ 7030. SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES

(a) In determining which of the following should be ordered, the court shall consider the nature and circumstances of the crime; the history and character of the defendant; the defendant's family circumstances and relationships; the impact of any sentence upon the defendant's minor children; the need for treatment; and the risk to self, others, and the community at large presented by the defendant:

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Sec. 3. 28 V.S.A. § 204 is amended to read:

§ 204. SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN REPORT; PRODUCTION OF
RECORDS

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(g) The presentence investigation report ordered by the court under this section or section 204a of this title shall set forth information concerning the defendant's custodial relationships pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 7030.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.