

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2263

4  
5 By: Representative Wilson

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH MORE REASONABLE PUNISHMENT FOR YOUNG  
10 PEOPLE CONVICTED OF MERE POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED  
11 SUBSTANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

14 "TO ESTABLISH MORE REASONABLE PUNISHMENT  
15 FOR YOUNG PEOPLE CONVICTED OF MERE  
16 POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES."

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 SECTION 1. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly  
21 that in many instances young people under twenty-five (25) years of age are  
22 incarcerated and their lives ruined as a result of mere possession of a  
23 relatively amount of controlled substances, and that the criminal penalties in  
24 such circumstances should be modified to provide a more reasonable punishment.

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26 SECTION 2. When a person under twenty-five (25) years of age pleads  
27 guilty or nolo contendere to or is found guilty of a first offense of mere  
28 possession of a controlled substance, the sentencing court shall suspend the  
29 imposition of the sentence and place the young person on probation on  
30 conditions such as community service, formal educational and vocational  
31 instruction, and gainful employment. Upon the successful completion of the  
32 term of probation, the court shall expunge the record.

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34 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
35 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
36 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.