# Analysis of Senate Bill 13-250

CONCERNING CHANGES TO SENTENCING OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF DRUG CRIMES.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 18-18-606

Presented to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees of the Colorado General Assembly

February 2017

Colorado Department of Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice
Office of Research and Statistics
700 Kipling St., Denver, Colorado 80215

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Peg Flick, Senior Policy Analyst Office of Research and Statistics Division of Criminal Justice February 2017



# **Table of Contents**

Study Highlights	1
Executive Summary	2
Part 1: Introduction	7
Background	7
Organization of this Report	7
Part 2: Study Design	8
Analysis Plan	8
Methodology	8
Part 3: New Drug Sentencing Grid	10
Felony Filings Convicted at the Misdemeanor Level	10
2. DOC Sentence Lengths for Felony Convictions	12
3. Felonies Reclassified to Misdemeanors	15
4. Petty Offense Increased to Misdemeanor	19
Part 4: The Wobbler	21
Part 5: Exhaustion of Remedies for Level 4 Drug Felonies	28
A. Direct Sentences to DOC	29
B. Revocations from Probation and Community Corrections	38
Part 6: Intensive Supervision for Misdemeanants	40
Part 7: Second Chance for Deferred Judgment Failures	40
Part 8: Reporting Requirements	45
Appendix A - Summary of S.B.13-250	66
Appendix B - Sentence Categories	68
Appendix C - Wobbler-Comparable Statutes (DF4)	69
Appendix D - DF4-comparable statutes	70
Appendix E – DCJ Reporting Requirement	72



# **List of Tables**

Table 3-1. Presumptive sentencing range (years) for felony convictions, pre- and post-S.B.13-25010
Table 3-2. Conviction level for cases with a felony drug offense as most serious filing charge, pre- and post-
S.B.13-250
Table 3-3. Conviction level for cases with a felony drug offense as most serious filing charge, pre- and post-
S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity
Table 3-4. Conviction level of cases with drugs as most serious conviction offense, pre- and post-S.B.13-250 . 13
Table 3-5. Initial sentence for cases with drugs as most serious felony conviction, pre- and post-S.B.13-250 $\dots$ 13
Table 3-6. Average sentence to DOC (years) for cases with drugs as most serious felony conviction charge, pre-
and post-S.B.13-25014
Table 3-7. Average sentence to DOC (years) for cases with drugs as most serious felony conviction charge, pre-
and post-S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity15
Table 3-8. Cases with distribution of less than 5lbs of Marijuana as most serious conviction charge, pre- and
post-S.B.13-250
Table 3-9. Initial sentences for felony cases convicted of distribution of less than 5lbs Marijuana as the most
serious charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-2501
Table 3-10. Average DOC sentence length for felony Marijuana distribution < 5lbs as most serious conviction,
by felony level
Table 3-11. Initial sentence for cases convicted of abusing toxic vapors as most serious conviction charge, pre-
and post-S.B.13-250
Table 4-1. Wobbler conditions identifiable in ICON22
Table 4-2. Cases with wobbler-eligible charge as most serious conviction charge, post-S.B.13-25022
Table 4-3. Cases with wobbler-eligible criminal history, post-S.B.13-25023
Table 4-4. Cases with wobbler-eligible criminal history, post-S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity23
Table 4-5. Cases with wobbler-eligible criminal history, post-S.B.13-250, by gender24
Table 4-6. Sentences for cases having a wobbler-eligible charge as most serious conviction and criminal history
eligible, post-S.B.13-25024
Table 4-7. Wobbler success, by time sufficient to complete sentence to the community, post-S.B.13-250 25
Table 4-8. Initial sentence for cases with qualifying criminal history and most serious conviction charge is a
wobbler-statute, pre-and post-S.B.13-25026
Table 5-1. Initial sentence for cases with possession of Schedule I or II drug as most serious conviction crime,
ore- and post-S.B.13-250
Table 5-2. Number of prior felony convictions for possession cases sentenced to the DOC, pre- and post-
S.B.13-250
Table 5-3. Initial sentence for cases with distribution of Schedules III and IV as most serious conviction charge,
pre- and post-S.B.13-25033
Table 5-4. Criminal history for cases sentenced to DOC with distribution of Schedule III or IV as most serious
conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-2503
Table 5-5. Initial sentence for cases with DF4-comparable Marijuana offenses as most serious conviction
charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-25032



Table 5-6. Initial sentence for cases with Fraud and Deceit as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-
S.B.13-250
Table 5-7. Criminal history for cases sentenced to the DOC for Fraud and Deceit as the most serious conviction
charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-25033
Table 5-8. Initial sentences for cases with felony drugs as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-
25034
Table 5-9. Initial sentences for cases with Level 4 felony drugs as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-
S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity
Table 5-10. DF4-comparable cases sentenced to probation and later revoked and sentenced to DOC, pre- and
post-S.B.13-250
Table 5-11. DF4-comparable cases sentenced to community corrections and later terminated or rejected and
sentenced to DOC, pre- and post-S.B.13-25039
Table 7-1. Initial sentence for cases with drug offense as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-
25041
Table 7-2. Initial sentence for cases with drug offense as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-
250, by court
Table 7-3. Revocations from deferred judgment and revocation result, pre- and post-S.B.13-25043
Table 7-4. Deferred judgment revocation result, pre- and post-S.B.13-250, by court44
Table 8-1. Drug cases diverted pre-filing post-S.B.13-250, by judicial district45
Table 8-2. Total cases filed containing a drug offense post-S.B.13-250, by judicial district
Table 8-3. Cases filed post-S.B.13-250 with drug offense as most serious filing charge,
Table 8-4. Outcome of cases with drugs as most serious filing charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute47
Table 8-5. Outcomes for cases with drug offense as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute
Table 8-6. Initial sentence for cases with drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute
53
Table 8-7. Cases with DOC sentence and drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250 by statute
and trial held
Table 8-8. Sentences to DOC for cases with drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by
concurrent cases and statute
Table 8-9. Probation and deferred judgment revocations for cases with drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute
Table 8-10. Outcomes for cases with drugs as most serious conviction and revoked from probation or deferred
judgment post-S.B.13-250, by statute61
Table 8-11. Deferred judgment outcomes for cases with drugs as most serious conviction post-S.B.13-250, by
statute



# **Study Highlights**

This study analyzed the outcomes of drug cases in the three years prior to the implementation of Senate Bill 13-250 (10/1/2013) compared to the three years following enactment. Only cases where the crime was committed, filed, convicted and sentenced during these periods were analyzed.

- **Felony drug filings increased.** The number of drug convictions in which a felony drug offense was the most serious filing charge increased from 14,366 in the pre-S.B.13-215 period to 19,211 in the post-S.B. 13-250 period, mostly due to an increase in the number of Schedule I or II drug possession convictions. This change occurred regardless of the implementation of S.B. 13-250.
- **Felony possession cases convicted of misdemeanors increased.** Felony possession cases were convicted at the misdemeanor level in 39% of cases before compared to 58% after the implementation of S.B. 13-250.
- **Proportion of prison sentences and length of stay declined.** The proportion of drug felony convictions that received a prison sentence fell from 23% to 21%.
  - The average prison sentence length declined from 4.2 years to 3.5 years across all felony drug levels.
  - o The length of DOC sentence declines were greater for Whites compared to Blacks.
- Many cases qualified for wobbler; Whites more likely to qualify than Blacks. The "wobbler" applies to certain Level 4 drug felonies and enables a defendant to avoid a felony conviction.
  - o There were 7,611 wobbler-eligible cases in the post-S.B. 13-250 period.
  - Three-fourths (75%) of White defendants had a wobbler-eligible criminal history compared to 49% of Black defendants.
  - o Wobbler-eligible sentences were given to 3,879 cases.
  - Use of deferred judgements and diversion declined for wobbler-eligible cases but the wobbler provided an additional opportunity to avoid a felony conviction. A deferred judgment was awarded to 33% of cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 period and to 18% of cases afterwards. In total, 35% (deferred + diversion) of cases in the before period could avoid a felony conviction if they were successful, versus 20% (deferred + diversion) in the post period. However, an additional 73% (community corrections + probation) of cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period also have the opportunity, as a wobbler, to have the felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor, provided (for possession cases) the amounts were within the statutory limits and they successfully completed their sentence.
- **Probation revocations increased but fewer were sentenced to DOC.** Probation revocations in the post-period increased to 39% from 31% in the pre-period. However the proportion of probation cases revoked and re-sentenced to DOC fell from 32% to 27%.



# **Executive Summary**

**Background.** Senate Bill 13-250, signed by the governor on May 28, 2013, made extensive revisions to Title 18 C.R.S. concerning definitions and penalties for drug offenses. S.B. 13-250 was the result of nearly four years of work by the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice's (CCJJ) Drug Policy Task Force. The Drug Policy Task Force was created by the CCJJ pursuant to S.B.09-286 to address drug sentencing and treatment issues in Colorado. In May 2009, the Governor and Attorney General requested that the Drug Policy Task Force investigate if

"there [are] evidence-based data to support changes in the length of sentence for those who use controlled substances, and should there be a focus on substituting treatment for punishment?"

The Drug Policy Task Force was comprised of subject matter experts from across the criminal justice community including law enforcement professionals, defense and prosecuting attorneys, legislative representatives, victim and offender advocates, and offender supervision and treatment professionals. The Task Force investigated strategies for improving the effectiveness of Colorado's drug laws and developed recommendations for statutory changes. These recommendations were approved by the CCJJ, and legislative sponsors drafted the recommendations into a bill that made substantial changes to drug offense statutes. Specifically, S.B.13-250

- Created a new sentencing grid for drug offenses,
- Created new qualifying amounts for felony, misdemeanor, and petty offenses,
- Created a new option for drug offenders to avoid a felony conviction,
- Instructed the court to exhaust all remedies before sentencing some drug offenders to the department of corrections (DOC),
- Prohibited plea agreements that require defendants to waive their right to petition to have a conviction record sealed,
- Expanded and encouraged treatment options for drug offenders.

S.B.13-250 also instructed the Division of Criminal Justice to collect data and issue a report to the legislature on the bill's impact. This document represents that report.

**Study Design.** S.B.13-250 contained 72 sections which made broad changes to drug offenses and penalties (summarized in Appendix A). This report analyzed the impact of the following five major provisions of S.B.13-250:

1. Section 1 of S.B.13-250 created a new sentencing option for certain Level 4 drug felony offenses that requires the court to replace a felony conviction with a misdemeanor conviction if the defendant successfully completes his/her sentence in the community. This provision is known as the "wobbler."



- Sections 2 and 3 of S.B.13-250 created a requirement that the court exhaust all remedies before sentencing or revoking a defendant with a Level 4 drug felony conviction to the Department of Corrections.
- 3. Sections 4 through 31 created a new sentencing grid for felony, misdemeanor, and petty drug offenses and assigned each of the drug crimes a penalty based on the new grid.
- 4. Section 35 amended the intensive supervision probation program to allow defendants convicted of a drug misdemeanor to receive intensive supervision if they are deemed high risk.
- 5. Section 64 gives a second chance to defendants who fail while on a deferred judgment.

To analyze the impact of S.B.13-250, the outcomes of cases filed in the three years prior to the bill's passage were compared with outcomes of cases filed in the three years after the enactment of the bill. The three-year post-S.B.13-250 period began after the bill's enactment on 10/1/2013 and ended on 9/30/2016. The post-S.B.13-250 sample contains cases whose events occurred during this period, including date of drug offense, case filing date and, if convicted, sentencing date. The cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 comparison group likewise had events which occurred within a comparable three-year period: 10/1/2010 to 9/30/2013.

The unit of analysis throughout this report is at the case-level, rather than the person-level. For each of the sections that follow, court records from the Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) system were obtained. Drug filings and convictions in district, county, and juvenile court were analyzed. Denver County Court data were not available.

**New Drug Sentencing Grid.** S.B.13-250 reduced the number of felony levels for drug offenses from 6 to 4. The sentence ranges in the new scheme are shorter for Levels 4 to 2 felonies than the prior, although longer sentences can be imposed for Level 1 felony offenses, and for aggravating circumstances. S.B.13-250 also reclassified three felony offenses to misdemeanors and one petty offense to a misdemeanor. This section analyzed the impact of collapsing six felonies into four, shortening the potential DOC sentence lengths, and offense reclassifications by examining the following:

- 1. Felony filings convicted at the misdemeanor level
- 2. DOC sentence lengths for Level 4 through Level 1 felony convictions
- 3. Three felony offenses reclassified to misdemeanors
- 4. One petty offense reclassified to a misdemeanor

Cases filed at lower felony levels are frequently plead to misdemeanor-level convictions. The number of drug convictions in which a felony drug offense was the most serious filing charge increased from 14,366 pre-S.B.13-250 to 19,211 post-S.B.13-250, mostly due to an increase in the number of Schedule I or II drug possession convictions. Possession cases filed at the felony level were convicted at the misdemeanor level in 39% (n=3,549) of cases pre-S.B.13-250 versus 58% (n=8,006) of cases post-S.B.13-250. In contrast felony distribution filings were convicted at the felony level in 98% of cases both pre- and post-S.B.13-250 (n=2,398 and 3,056, respectively). For cases with White defendants with felony level filings, the proportion of cases convicted at the misdemeanor level increased from 35% (n=3,821) to 50% (n=7,773) in the post-S.B.13-250



period. For cases with Black defendants with felony level drug filings, the proportion convicted at the misdemeanor level increased from 31% (n=588) to 46% (n=911) post-S.B.13-250.

Sentence ranges in the new scheme are shorter for Levels 4 to 2 drug felonies compared to the prior grid, although longer sentences can be imposed for Level 1 felony offenses and for aggravating circumstances. The proportion of drug felony convictions that received a DOC sentence fell from 23% (n=2,062) to 21% (n=2,131), and the average sentence length declined from 4.2 years to 3.5 years across all felony drug levels. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, the average DOC sentence length for White defendants with cases having DF3 to DF1 level convictions decreased from 7.3 years (n=497) to 5.8 years (n=772). For White defendants with DF4 level convictions the average sentence length decreased from 2.4 years (n=901) to 1.1 years (n=827). In cases with Black defendants having DF3 through DF1 level convictions, the average sentence length decreased from 8.3 years (n=72) pre-S.B.13-250 to 5.0 years (n=104) in the post-S.B.13-250 period. For DF4 conviction cases with Black defendants, the average DOC sentence length fell from 2.9 years (n=236) to 1.2 years (n=151) post-S.B.13-250.

Distribution of less than 5lbs of Marijuana was reclassified from F5 to three levels: DF3, DF4, and DM1. In the post-S.B.13-250 period 50% (n=212) of convictions for Marijuana distribution less than 5lbs were at the misdemeanor level. These defendants would have received felony convictions prior to S.B.13-250. For those that were convicted at the felony level, 8% (DF3: n=11; DF4: n=5) received a sentence to DOC post-S.B.13-250 versus 6% (n=26) pre-S.B.13-250.

Prior to S.B.13-250, the possession or use of up to 8oz of Marijuana in a detention facility (C.R.S. 18-18-406.5(1)) was classified as an F6. S.B.13-250 reduced this offense to a Level 1 drug misdemeanor. In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, there were eight (8) convictions at the F6 level. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, there were six (6) convictions at the misdemeanor level. Of the eight cases sentenced pre-S.B.13-250 for F6 convictions, 5 received a sentence to the DOC.

In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, distribution of a Schedule V drug (C.R.S. 18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(IV)(B)) by a defendant who had prior convictions was classified as an F5. S.B.13-250 makes no distinction with regard to prior convictions and classifies this offense as a Level 1 misdemeanor. In the three-year pre-S.B.13-250 period, one (1) case with distribution of Schedule V drug with prior convictions was found. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, this conviction would be at the misdemeanor level.

Finally, S.B.13-250 increased the penalty for abusing toxic vapors (C.R.S. 18-18-412) from a Class 1 petty offense to a Level 2 drug misdemeanor. The maximum sentence for a DM2 is 12 months in jail and up to a \$750 fine versus 6 months and \$500 for a Class 1 petty offense. The number of cases convicted of abusing toxic vapors as the most serious offense increased from 76 in pre-S.B.13-250 period to 143 in the post- period. Sentences to jail decreased in the post period to 14% (n=20) of cases from 18% (n=14) while sentences to probation increased in the post- period from 41% (n=31) to 58% (n=83). Deferred judgments decreased slightly (4%, n=3 to 3%, n=4).



**The Wobbler.** Section 1 of S.B.13-250 created an alternative sentencing option for some Level 4 felony drug offenses that enables an offender to avoid a felony conviction. Under this provision, upon the successful completion of a community-based sentence, the drug felony conviction is vacated and replaced with a conviction for a Level 1 drug misdemeanor. This option is known as the "wobbler." The wobbler is intended for offenders who are otherwise not qualified for deferred judgments or diversion, and is limited to those with minimal criminal history. The wobbler applies to specific Level 4 drug felonies:

- 1. Possession of not more than 4 grams of Schedule I or II drugs or Flunitrazepam, or not more than 2 grams of Methamphetamine, Heroin, Ketamine or Cathinone (C.R.S. 18-18-403.5(2)(a)).
- 2. A Level 4 drug felony for distribution of Schedule I or II drug when the transfer was for contemporaneous consumption (C.R.S. 18-18-405(2)(d)(II)).
- 3. Possession of 12 ounces or more of Marijuana or 3 ounces of Marijuana concentrate (C.R.S. 18-18-406(4)(a)).
- 4. Any violation of C.R.S. 18-18-415 which prohibits the obtaining of a controlled substance by fraud or deceit.

There were 7,611 cases with a wobbler-eligible statute as the highest conviction charge in the post-S.B.13-250 period, the majority of which (95%) were for possession of a schedule I or II controlled substance. The wobbler statute limits possession to less than 4gm but it is not known if the possession cases met this quantity limit because this information is not tracked in ICON. Most cases (73%, n=5,558) appeared to qualify given the statute's criminal history limitations. Seventy-five percent (75%) of cases with White defendants (n=4,746) had wobbler-eligible criminal history, while 49% of cases with Black defendants (n=357) had wobbler-eligible criminal history. A majority of cases with male and female defendants met the criminal history restrictions: males: 70% (n=3,769); females: 81% (1,780).

The wobbler applies to sentences to probation or community corrections. Wobbler-eligible sentences were given to 3,879 cases, but only 22% (n=861) had sufficient time to complete their sentence within the analysis three-year timeframe. Of those, 13% (n=114) successfully finished their sentence and had their felony conviction replaced with a misdemeanor per the wobbler provision. Twenty more appeared to finish their sentence early and have their felony conviction replaced. An additional 26 that did not appear to meet the wobbler criteria also had the felony conviction set aside in favor of a misdemeanor for a total of 160 wobbler-successful cases. In 12 of these successful cases, a revocation occurred at some point, but the defendant was able to complete their sentence and have the felony conviction set aside.

In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, the only options to avoid a felony conviction were deferred judgment or diversion. These two sentencing options were compared pre- and post-S.B.13-250 for cases with a wobbler-eligible conviction and qualifying criminal history. For the pre-S.B.13-250 sample cases with the closest matching statute to the wobbler were selected. Although the resulting pre-S.B.13-250 sample was not an exact match, the comparison of sentences in the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods shows that the use of deferred judgments and diversion declined overall from 35% (n=1,731) to 20% (n=1,032) of convictions. However the wobbler provision enabled an additional 73% (n=3,879) of cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period to



potentially have the felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor, provided they met quantity limits and successfully completed the sentence to the community.

**Exhaustion of Remedies.** S.B.13-250 directed the court to exhaust all remedies before sentencing a defendant convicted of a Level 4 drug felony to DOC following a revocation from probation or termination from community corrections. Using the same cohorts as in the previous analyses, the proportion of revocations from probation or from community corrections to DOC for Level 4 felony drug convictions in district court was analyzed pre- and post-S.B.13-250. The closest matching pre-S.B.13-250 offense was identified for each post-S.B.13-250 Level 4 offense, however due to S.B.13-250 changes to quantity limits, an exact match did not exist for all offenses. As a result some cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 sample would not be eligible for the exhaustion of remedies provision.

More DF4 level cases were sentenced to probation in the post-S.B.13-250 period than in the prior period: 3,160 pre-S.B.13-250 and 4,692 post-S.B.13-250. Revocations from probation increased in the post- period to 39% (1,817) of cases from 31% (n=971). However the proportion of probation cases revoked and re-sentenced to DOC fell in the post-S.B.13-250 period from 32% (n=306) of cases to 27% (n=498). In contrast, the proportion of cases rejected or revoked from community corrections and re-sentenced to DOC remained unchanged at 35% for both the pre- and post- periods (n=217 and n=189).

**Intensive Supervision for Level 4 Drug Felonies.** Section 35 of S.B.13-250 amended the intensive supervision probation statute to allow defendants convicted of a misdemeanor to participate if they were assessed as higher risk. Prior to S.B.13-250, defendants convicted at a misdemeanor level were not eligible for intensive supervision. Since the enactment of S.B.13-250, the state Division of Probation Services has admitted 53 males and 8 females convicted with a drug misdemeanor or petty offense as the most serious conviction to intensive supervision.

**Second Chance for Deferred Judgment Failures.** S.B.13-250 allows the court to reinstate deferred judgments upon revocation for drug offenses. Reinstatement rates for deferred judgment revocations were compared pre- and post-S.B.13-250. The use of the deferred judgment sentencing option declined from 16% (n=4,100) pre-S.B.13-250 to 9% (n=2,195) of drug convictions overall in the post-S.B.13-250 period. However the use of deferred judgments in juvenile court increased from 33% (n=517) to 37% (n=349) of drug convictions. Revocations from deferred judgments increased from 18% (n=744) of cases to 20% (n=441) of cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period. The rate of reinstatement of the deferment increased slightly overall between the periods (3% n=21 versus 4% n=16 post-S.B.13-250). Juvenile revocations experienced an increase in the number of deferred Judgment reinstatements: 6% to 16%, however the number of cases is very small (n=10 in both periods).



#### Part 1: Introduction

## **Background**

Senate Bill 13-250, signed by the governor on May 28, 2013, made extensive revisions to Title 18 C.R.S. concerning definitions and penalties for drug offenses. S.B. 13-250 was the result of nearly four years of work by the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice's (CCJJ) Drug Policy Task Force. The Drug Policy Task Force was created by the CCJJ pursuant to S.B.09-286 to address drug sentencing and treatment issues in Colorado. In May 2009, the Governor and Attorney General requested that the Drug Policy Task Force investigate if

"there [are] evidence-based data to support changes in the length of sentence for those who use controlled substances, and should there be a focus on substituting treatment for punishment?"

The Drug Policy Task Force was comprised of subject matter experts from across the criminal justice community including law enforcement professionals, defense and prosecuting attorneys, legislative representatives, victim and offender advocates, and offender supervision and treatment professionals. The Task Force investigated strategies for improving the effectiveness of Colorado's drug laws and developed recommendations for statutory changes. These recommendations were approved by the CCJJ, and legislative sponsors drafted the recommendations into a bill that made substantial changes to drug offense statutes. Specifically, S.B.13-250

- Created a new sentencing grid for drug offenses,
- Created new qualifying amounts for felony, misdemeanor, and petty offenses,
- Created a new option for drug offenders to avoid a felony conviction,
- Instructed the court to exhaust all remedies before sentencing some drug offenders to the department of corrections.
- Prohibited plea agreements that require defendants to waive their right to petition to have a conviction record sealed,
- Expanded and encouraged treatment options for drug offenders.

S.B.13-250 also instructed the Division of Criminal Justice to collect data and issue a report to the legislature on the bill's impact. This document represents that report.

# **Organization of this Report**

This report is organized as follows: Part One provides an overview of S.B.13-250; Part Two describes the study design; Parts Three through Seven analyze the impact of five major provisions of S.B.13-250; and Part Eight provides the specific data mandated by Section 58 of S.B.13-250.



# Part 2: Study Design

#### **Analysis Plan**

S.B.13-250 contained 72 sections which made broad changes to drug offenses and penalties (summarized in Appendix A). This report analyzed the impact of the following five major provisions of S.B.13-250:

- 1. Section 1 of S.B.13-250 created a new sentencing option for certain Level 4 drug felony offenses that requires the court to replace a felony conviction with a misdemeanor conviction if the defendant successfully completes his/her sentence in the community. This provision is known as the "wobbler."
- 2. Sections 2 and 3 of S.B.13-250 created a requirement that the court exhaust all remedies before sentencing or revoking a defendant with a Level 4 drug felony conviction to the Department of Corrections.
- 3. Sections 4 through 31 created a new sentencing grid for felony, misdemeanor, and petty drug offenses and assigned each of the drug crimes a penalty based on the new grid.
- 4. Section 35 amended the intensive supervision probation program to allow defendants convicted of a drug misdemeanor to receive intensive supervision if they are deemed high risk.
- 5. Section 64 gives a second chance to defendants who fail while on a deferred judgment.

## **Methodology**

To analyze the impact of S.B.13-250, the outcomes of cases filed in the three years prior to the bill's passage were compared with outcomes of cases filed in the three years after the enactment of the bill.

**Timeframe.** The three-year post-S.B.13-250 period began after the bill's enactment on 10/1/2013 and ended on 9/30/2016. The post-S.B.13-250 sample contains cases whose events occurred during this period, including date of drug offense, case filing date and, if convicted, sentencing date. The cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 comparison group likewise had events which occurred within a comparable three-year period:

- 1. The drug offense was committed between 10/1/2010 and 9/30/2013,
- 2. The case was filed between 10/1/2010 and 9/30/2013, and
- 3. All conviction and sentencing activities occurred between 10/1/2010 and 9/30/2013.

Cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 period that did not meet all three criteria were excluded.1

**Case classification.** The intent of this analysis is to compare the outcomes for drug offenses in the post-S.B.13-250 period to the outcomes for those same offenses in the prior period. Because S.B.13-250 modified statute numbers, comparable drug offenses between the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods were identified using statute descriptions. However, for some offenses, S.B.13-250 also changed the amounts considered unlawful at a particular felony or misdemeanor level. The closest pre-S.B.13-250 offense match was found for each



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cases in the <u>post-S.B.13-250</u> period in which the drug offense date was <u>prior</u> to the bill's enactment on October 1, 2013 were also excluded since these cases were not subject to the statutory changes.

post-S.B.13-250 offense, but for some an exact match was not possible. In addition, the "most serious" charge in a case was selected as the overall case classification. Cases usually contain more than one charge. The most serious charge was the charge with the highest felony, misdemeanor, or petty offense level. In the pre-SB12-250 period felonies ranged from F6 (least serious) to F2 (most serious), and in the post-S.B.13-250 period from DF4 (least serious) to DF1 (most serious). Similarly, misdemeanors ranged from M3 to M1 in the pre-S.B.13-250 period and from DM2 to DM1 in the post-period. Petty offenses ranged from PO2 to PO1 pre-S.B.13-250 versus a single petty offense (DPO) in the post-S.B.13-250 period.

**Outcome measure.** In this analysis the primary outcome measure was the initial sentence received for a drug conviction. When multiple sentences were imposed, such as probation and community service, the more serious sentence was selected for analysis. In cases in which a sentence to probation was accompanied by a jail term, the probation sentence was selected as the most serious since it was longer in duration. Nineteen sentence placements were collapsed into ten for clarity (see Appendix B). This report does not include an analysis of how S.B.13-250 was implemented across judicial districts. Instead, it focuses on a statewide analysis of case outcomes found in the court records.

**Unit of analysis.** The unit of analysis throughout this report is at the case-level, rather than the person-level. Defendants frequently have multiple cases involving different offense types that are sentenced together or separately. Case-level analysis was employed because it is not possible to accurately quantify outcomes involving complex person-level scenarios. As a result this report does not analyze the <u>number of persons</u> affected by changes resulting from the implementation of S.B.13-250.

**Data source.** For each of the sections that follow, court records from the Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) system were obtained. Drug filings and convictions in district, county, and juvenile court were analyzed. Denver County Court data were not available.

**Minority impact.** Judicial Branch's ICON system has a single field for race and ethnicity. Defendants of Hispanic ethnicity are frequently recorded by their race instead (White, Black, Other). As a result, the number of cases classified as Hispanic is not representative of the true population. This analysis therefore only examined impact on the Black population, in offense categories in which there were a sufficient number of cases.



# Part 3: New Drug Sentencing Grid

Sections 4 and 5 of S.B.13-250 created new sentencing grids for felony, misdemeanor, and petty offense drug convictions. Sections 8 through 30 assigned all existing drug crimes to a new penalty based on these grids. S.B.13-250 reduced the number of felony levels from six to four (Table 3-1). Most of the new felony levels have shorter sentencing ranges than the prior scheme, although with aggravating circumstances longer sentences can be imposed. In addition to the new grids, three felony level offenses were reclassified down to drug misdemeanors, and one petty offense was reclassified up to a drug misdemeanor.

Table 3-1. Presumptive sentencing range (years) for felony convictions, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before				·	t 3.B.13 230	After		
	Felonies				Drug Felonies				
			Aggravated	d/Mitigated				Aggra	vated
	Min	Max	Min	Max		Min	Max	Min	Max
	Life								
F1	Imprisonment	Death							
					DF1	8	32		
F2	8	24	4	48					
F3	4	12	2	24					
					DF2	4	8	8	16
F4	2	6	1	12					
					DF3	2	4	4	6
F5	1	3	0.5	6			-		
F6	1	1.5	0.5	3			-		
	·				DF4	0.5	1	1	2

This section of the report analyzes the impact of collapsing six felonies into four, shortening the potential DOC sentence lengths, and offense reclassifications, by examining the following:

- 1. Felony filings convicted at the misdemeanor level
- 2. DOC sentence lengths for Level 4 through Level 1 felony convictions
- 3. Three felony offenses reclassified to misdemeanors
- 4. One petty offense reclassified to a misdemeanor

### 1. Felony Filings Convicted at the Misdemeanor Level

S.B.13-250 reduced the number of felony sentencing ranges for drug offenses from 6 to 4. Cases filed at lower felony levels are frequently plead to a misdemeanor level conviction.<sup>2</sup> Defendants convicted at the misdemeanor-level can be jailed but they are not subject to a sentence to the Department of Corrections



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In the data analyzed here, only 1% of cases with a drug offense as the most serious filing charge went to trial, both preand post-S.B.13-250. The remaining 99% were resolved as the result of a plea agreement.

(DOC). Misdemeanor convictions also have lower fines imposed than felony convictions. The impact of S.B.13-250's collapsing of 6 felony levels to 4 was analyzed by comparing the proportion of felony-level filings that resulted in a misdemeanor-level conviction pre- and post-S.B.13-250. Cases in district and juvenile court, where felony cases are filed, were analyzed.

The number of drug convictions in which a <u>felony</u> drug offense was the most serious <u>filing</u> charge increased from 14,366 pre-S.B.13-250 to 19,211 post-S.B.13-250 (Table 3-2). Most of this increase was due to the increase in Schedule I or II drug possession cases: from 9,257 to 14,025 post-S.B.13-250. Of those possession cases filed at the felony level pre-S.B.13-250, 61% were also convicted at the felony level and 39% at the misdemeanor level. In the post- S.B.13-250 period the proportion of possession cases filed at the felony level and also convicted at the felony level declined to 42%; misdemeanor level convictions increased to 58%.<sup>3</sup> In contrast, felony <u>distribution</u> filings were convicted at the felony level in 98% of cases both pre- and post-S.B.13-250.

Table 3-2. Conviction level for cases with a felony drug offense as most serious filing charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Be	fore	At	fter
Conviction Level	% N %		N	
Distribution (non-Marijuana)	17%	2,459	16%	3,114
Felony	98%	2,398	98%	3,056
Misdemeanor	2%	61	2%	58
Possession of Schedule I or II drug	64%	9,257	73%	14,025
Felony	61%	5,708	42%	6,019
Misdemeanor	39%	3,549	58%	8,006
Other Drugs*	19%	2,650	11%	2,072
Felony	46%	1,220	33%	672
Misdemeanor	47%	1,259	61%	1,254
Petty Offense	7%	179	6%	126
Total	100%	14,366	100%	19,211

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

For cases with White defendants with felony-level filings the proportion of cases convicted at the misdemeanor level increased from 35% to 50% in the post-S.B.13-250 period. For cases with Black defendants with felony-level drug filings, the proportion convicted at the misdemeanor level increased from 31% to 46% post-S.B.13-250 (Table 3-3).



<sup>\*</sup>Marijuana (possession, cultivation, distribution), Synthetics (possession, manufacture, distribution), drug use, paraphernalia, distribution to a minor, obtaining a controlled substance by fraud or deceit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> S.B.13-250 collapsed two felony levels (F4 and F6) into a single felony level (DF4) for possession of a Schedule I or II drug. This collapse made more felony cases at the lowest felony level which could potentially be plead to a misdemeanor.

Table 3-3. Conviction level for cases with a felony drug offense as most serious filing charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity

	Befo	ore	Af	ter
Conviction level	%	N	%	N
Black	13%	1,875	10%	1,973
Felony	68%	1,275	54%	1,060
Misdemeanor	31%	588	46%	911
Petty Offense	1%	12	0%	2
Hispanic	10%	1,378	7%	1,268
Felony	73%	1,000	61%	774
Misdemeanor	26%	363	38%	488
Petty Offense	1%	15	0%	6
Other	2%	347	2%	355
Felony	72%	251	59%	208
Misdemeanor	26%	89	41%	146
Petty Offense	2%	7	0%	1
White	75%	10,766	81%	15,615
Felony	63%	6,800	49%	7,725
Misdemeanor	35%	3,821	50%	7,773
Petty Offense	1%	145	1%	117
Total	100%	14,366	100%	19,211

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS. Note that Judicial systematically collects race but not ethnicity so most Hispanic cases are in the White category.

## 2. DOC Sentence Lengths for Felony Convictions

The new felony levels DF4 through DF2 have shorter sentencing ranges than the prior scheme, although with aggravating circumstances longer sentences can be imposed (Table 3-1). This section analyzes the effects of the new drug grid on DOC sentence lengths post-S.B.13-250 compared to the prior three years. Felony district court convictions, which are subject to a possible DOC sentence, were examined.

Overall, felony-level convictions pre-S.B.13-250 comprised 64% of cases in which a drug charge was the most serious conviction offense (Table 3-4). In the post-S.B.13-250 period, felony-level convictions declined to 51%. However, the total number of drug convictions overall increased in the post-S.B.13-250 period (14,069 versus 19,989). As a result, many more cases, as felony convictions, were subject to a possible sentence to DOC in the post-S.B.13-250 period than the prior period (9,007 versus 10,252).



Table 3-4. Conviction level of cases with drugs as most serious conviction offense, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Befo	ore	Af	iter
Conviction level	% N		%	N
Felony	64%	9,007	51%	10,252
Misdemeanor	34%	4,824	48%	9,561
Petty Offense	2%	238	1%	176
Total	100%	14,069	100%	19,989 <sup>4</sup>

For those that were convicted at all felony levels, a sentence to the DOC occurred in 23% of cases pre-S.B.13-250 and 21% post-S.B.13-250 (Table 3-5).

Table 3-5. Initial sentence for cases with drugs as most serious felony conviction, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Bef	ore	After		
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N	
Community Corrections	9%	805	9%	876	
Deferred Judgment	23%	2,110	13%	1,285	
Dept of Corrections	23%	2,062	21%	2,131	
Diversion	1%	89	1%	94	
Jail	<1%	33	1%	52	
Other	1%	71	<1%	42	
Probation	43%	3,835	56%	5,771	
Youthful Offender System	<1%	2	<1%	1	
Total	100%	9,007	100%	10,252	

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

For those that received a DOC sentence, the average sentence length declined for DF4 offenses to 1.1 years during the post-S.B.13-250 period from 2.5 years (Table 3-6). The average sentence length for those convicted of Drug Levels 1 through 3 declined to 5.8 years from 7.1 years. Note that this table represents cases, not individuals.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Unlike the data in Table 3-2 these cases did not necessarily have a drug offense as the most serious <u>filing</u> charge, but a drug offense was the most serious <u>conviction</u> charge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> From FY14 to FY16--roughly approximate to the post-S.B.13-250 period--DOC admitted 1,184 new inmates with a drug felony as the most serious conviction crime (data provided by the Colorado Department of Corrections, Office of Planning and Analysis and analyzed by the Division of Criminal Justice Office of Research and Statistics.).

Table 3-6. Average sentence to DOC (years) for cases with drugs as most serious felony conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		After	
	Average sentence			
Conviction level	(Years)	N	Average sentence (Years)	N
DF1 to DF3 and pre-S.B.13-				
250 comparable convictions	7.1	754	5.8	1,077
DF4 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	2.5	1,308	1.1	1,054
	4.2	2,062	3.5	2,131

In the post-S.B.13-250 period, the average DOC sentence length for White defendants with cases having DF3 to DF1 level convictions decreased from 7.3 years to 5.8 years (Table 3-7). For White defendants with DF4 convictions the average sentence length decreased from 2.4 years to 1.1 years. Cases with Black defendants having DF3 through DF1 level convictions saw an average sentence length decrease from 8.3 years pre-S.B.13-250 to 5.0 years in the post-S.B.13-250 period. For DF4 conviction cases with Black defendants the average DOC sentence length fell from 2.9 years to 1.2 years post-S.B.13-250.



Table 3-7. Average sentence to DOC (years) for cases with drugs as most serious <u>felony</u> conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity\*

	Before		After	
Conviction level	Average sentence (Years)	N	Average sentence (Years)	N
Black				
DF1 to DF3 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	8.3	72	5.0	104
DF4 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	2.9	236	1.2	151
Hispanic				
DF1 to DF3 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	6.6	159	7.0	168
DF4 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	2.7	144	1.1	67
Other				
DF1 to DF3 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	5.3	26	5.6	33
DF4 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	2.6	27	1.0	9
White				
DF1 to DF3 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	7.3	497	5.8	772
DF4 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	2.4	901	1.1	827
Total	4.2	2,062	3.5	2,131

#### 3. Felonies Reclassified to Misdemeanors

S.B.13-250 reclassified three felony-level drug offenses down to the misdemeanor level: 1) Distribution of less than 4oz of Marijuana, 2) Possession of Marijuana in a Detention Facility, and 3) Possession of Schedule V with any prior conviction. As noted above, misdemeanor level convictions are not subject to a DOC sentence and the fines imposed are lower.

#### Marijuana Distribution less than 5lbs

Prior to S.B.13-250, a single statute for the distribution of less than 5lbs of Marijuana was classified at the F5 level. S.B.13-250 created the following 3 levels for Marijuana distribution under 5lbs:



<sup>\*</sup> Judicial race data does not distinguish between race and ethnicity (particularly "White" and "Hispanic"). As a result, the ability to accurately interpret this data is limited.

- 12oz to 5lbs as DF3 (C.R.S. 18-18-406(2)(b)(III)(C))
- 4oz to 12oz as DF4 (C.R.S. 18-18-406(2)(b)(III)(D))
- Less than 4oz as DM1 (C.R.S. 18-18-406(2)(b)(III)(E))

As a result of the addition of the misdemeanor level penalty, 50% of convictions for Marijuana distribution under 5lbs in the post-S.B.13-250 period were at the misdemeanor level (Table 3-8). Prior to the passage of S.B.13-250, these convictions would have been felonies.

Table 3-8. Cases with distribution of less than 5lbs of Marijuana as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Befo	ore	Aft	ter
Conviction level	% N		%	N
DF3			33%	141
DF4			17%	71
DM1			50%	212
F5	100%	430		
Total	100%	430	100%	424

Data source: District, juvenile and county court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS. Excludes Denver County Court.

For those convicted at the felony level of distribution of less than 5lbs of Marijuana in the pre-S.B.13-250 period, 6% received a sentence to the DOC, versus 8% for both DF4 and DF3 convictions in the post-S.B.13-250 period (Table 3-9). Deferred judgments, in which a felony conviction can be set aside upon successful completion, were awarded to 45% of felony (F5) cases pre-S.B.13-250 but declined to 25% of DF4 convictions in the post-period. Level 4 felony convictions for Marijuana distribution do not have the wobbler option available (see Part 4).



Table 3-9. Initial sentences for <u>felony cases</u> convicted of distribution of less than 5lbs Marijuana as the most serious charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Befo	ore	After		
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N	
DF3			68%	138	
Community Corrections			7%	10	
Deferred Judgment			34%	47	
Dept of Corrections			8%	11	
Other			1%	1	
Probation			50%	69	
DF4			32%	65	
Community Corrections			3%	2	
Deferred Judgment			25%	16	
Dept of Corrections			8%	5	
Diversion			3%	2	
Division of Youth Corrections			3%	2	
Probation			58%	38	
F5	100%	422			
Community Corrections	3%	11			
Deferred Judgment	45%	190			
Dept of Corrections	6%	26			
Diversion	4%	15			
Division of Youth Corrections	1%	5			
Jail	<1%	2			
Other	1%	5			
Probation	40%	168			
Total	100%	422	100%	203	

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

For defendants who received a DOC sentence for Marijuana distribution prior to S.B.13-250, the F5 level had a sentencing range of 1 to 3 years (with 6 months to 6 years for aggravated/mitigated circumstances). Post-S.B.13-250, conviction for possession of 12oz to 5lbs is a DF3 felony and subject to DOC sentence of 2 to 4 years or 4 to 6 years with aggravated circumstances. Convictions at the DF4 level are subject to a DOC sentence of 6 months to one year or 1 to 2 years with aggravated circumstances.

For those who received a sentence to the DOC, the average sentence length increased for the DF3 convictions and decreased for the DF4 convictions as compared to the pre-S.B.13-250 F5 convictions (Table 3-10). Note that these data represent cases, not individuals.



Table 3-10. Average DOC sentence length for felony Marijuana distribution < 5lbs as most serious conviction, by felony level

	Before		After	
Felony level	Average sentence (Years) N		Average sentence (Years)	N
DF3	(100.0)	- 11	3.5	11
DF4			1.2	5
F5	2.7	26		

#### Possession or use of less than 8oz of Marijuana in a Detention Facility

Prior to S.B.13-250, the possession or use of up to 8oz of Marijuana in a detention facility (C.R.S. 18-18-406.5(1)) was classified as an F6. S.B.13-250 reduced this offense to a Level 1 drug misdemeanor. In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, there were 8 convictions at the F6 level. In post-S.B.13-250 there were 6 convictions at the misdemeanor level. Of the 8 cases sentenced pre-S.B.13-250 for F6 convictions, 5 received a sentence to the DOC (data not presented).

#### **Distribution of Schedule V with Prior Convictions**

In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, distribution of a Schedule V drug (C.R.S. 18-18-405(2)(a)(IV)(B)) with prior convictions was classified as F5. S.B.13-250 makes no distinction for prior convictions and classifies this offense as a misdemeanor. In the three-year pre-S.B.13-250 period, one case with distribution of Schedule V drug with prior convictions as the most serious conviction offense was found (data not presented). In the post-S.B.13-250 period, this conviction would be at the misdemeanor level.



### 4. Petty Offense Increased to Misdemeanor

S.B.13-250 increased the penalty for abusing toxic vapors (C.R.S. 18-18-412) from a Class 1 petty offense (PO1) to a Level 2 drug misdemeanor (DM2). The maximum sentence for a DM2 is 12 months in jail and up to \$750 in fines versus 6 months and up to \$500 for a PO1. The number of cases convicted of abusing toxic vapors as the most serious crime increased in district, juvenile and county court from 76 in pre-S.B.13-250 period to 143 in the post- period (Table 3-11). Sentences to jail<sup>6</sup> decreased in the post-S.B.13-250 period to 14% of cases from 18% while probation increased in the post- period from 41% to 58%. The use of deferred judgments decreased slightly (4% to 3%).

Table 3-11. Initial sentence for cases convicted of abusing toxic vapors as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		After	
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N
DM2			100%	143
Deferred			3%	4
Diversion			2%	3
Division of Youth Corrections			1%	1
Jail			14%	20
Other			22%	32
Probation			58%	83
PO1	100%	76		
Deferred	4%	3		
Diversion	1%	1		
Division of Youth Corrections	1%	1		
Jail	18%	14		
Juvenile Detention	0%	0		
Other	34%	26		
Probation	41%	31		
Total	100%	76	100%	143

Data source: District, juvenile and county court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS. Excludes Denver County Court.

**Summary.** S.B.13-250 reduced the number of felony levels for drug offenses from 6 to 4. The sentence ranges in the new scheme are shorter for Levels 4 to 2 felonies than the prior, although longer sentences can be imposed for Level 1 felony offenses, and for aggravating circumstances. S.B.13-250 also reclassified three felony offenses to misdemeanors and one petty offense to a misdemeanor. This section analyzed the impact



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> In both pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods a sentence to jail on the first offense is prohibited.

of collapsing six felonies into four, shortening the potential DOC sentence lengths, and offense reclassifications by examining the following:

- 1. Felony filings convicted at the misdemeanor level
- 2. DOC sentence lengths for Level 4 through Level 1 felony convictions
- 3. Three felony offenses reclassified to misdemeanors
- 4. One petty offense reclassified to a misdemeanor

Cases filed at lower felony levels are frequently plead to misdemeanor-level convictions. The number of drug convictions in which a felony drug offense was the most serious filing charge increased from 14,366 pre-S.B.13-250 to 19,211 post-S.B.13-250, mostly due to an increase in the number of Schedule I or II drug possession convictions. Possession cases filed at the felony level were convicted at the misdemeanor level in 39% (n=3,549) of cases pre-S.B.13-250 versus 58% (n=8,006) of cases post-S.B.13-250. In contrast felony distribution filings were convicted at the felony level in 98% of cases both pre- and post-S.B.13-250 (n=2,398 and 3,056, respectively). For cases with White defendants with felony level filings, the proportion of cases convicted at the misdemeanor level increased from 35% (n=3,821) to 50% (n=7,773) in the post-S.B.13-250 period. For cases with Black defendants with felony level drug filings, the proportion convicted at the misdemeanor level increased from 31% (n=588) to 46% (n=911) post-S.B.13-250.

Sentence ranges in the new scheme are shorter for Levels 4 to 2 drug felonies compared to the prior grid, although longer sentences can be imposed for Level 1 felony offenses and for aggravating circumstances. The proportion of drug felony convictions that received a DOC sentence fell from 23% (n=2,062) to 21% (n=2,131), and the average sentence length declined from 4.2 years to 3.5 years across all felony drug levels. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, the average DOC sentence length for White defendants with cases having DF3 to DF1 level convictions decreased from 7.3 years (n=497) to 5.8 years (n=772). For White defendants with DF4 level convictions the average sentence length decreased from 2.4 years (n=901) to 1.1 years (n=827). In cases with Black defendants having DF3 through DF1 level convictions, the average sentence length decreased from 8.3 years (n=72) pre-S.B.13-250 to 5.0 years (n=104) in the post-S.B.13-250 period. For DF4 conviction cases with Black defendants, the average DOC sentence length fell from 2.9 years (n=236) to 1.2 years (n=151) post-S.B.13-250.

Distribution of less than 5lbs of Marijuana was reclassified from F5 to three levels: DF3, DF4, and DM1. In the post-S.B.13-250 period 50% (n=212) of convictions for Marijuana distribution less than 5lbs were at the misdemeanor level. These defendants would have received felony convictions prior to S.B.13-250. For those that were convicted at the felony level, 8% (DF3: n=11; DF4: n=5) received a sentence to DOC post-S.B.13-250 versus 6% (n=26) pre-S.B.13-250.

Prior to S.B.13-250, the possession or use of up to 8oz of Marijuana in a detention facility (C.R.S. 18-18-406.5(1)) was classified as an F6. S.B.13-250 reduced this offense to a Level 1 drug misdemeanor. In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, there were eight (8) convictions at the F6 level. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, there were six (6) convictions at the misdemeanor level. Of the eight cases sentenced pre-S.B.13-250 for F6 convictions, 5 received a sentence to the DOC.



In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, distribution of a Schedule V drug (C.R.S. 18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(IV)(B)) by a defendant who had prior convictions was classified as an F5. S.B.13-250 makes no distinction with regard to prior convictions and classifies this offense as a Level 1 misdemeanor. In the three-year pre-S.B.13-250 period, one (1) case with distribution of Schedule V drug with prior convictions was found. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, this conviction would be at the misdemeanor level.

Finally, S.B.13-250 increased the penalty for abusing toxic vapors (C.R.S. 18-18-412) from a Class 1 petty offense to a Level 2 drug misdemeanor. The maximum sentence for a DM2 is 12 months in jail and up to a \$750 fine versus 6 months and \$500 for a Class 1 petty offense. The number of cases convicted of abusing toxic vapors as the most serious offense increased from 76 in pre-S.B.13-250 period to 143 in the post- period. Sentences to jail decreased in the post period to 14% (n=20) of cases from 18% (n=14) while sentences to probation increased in the post- period from 41% (n=31) to 58% (n=83). Deferred judgments decreased slightly (4%, n=3 to 3%, n=4).

#### Part 4: The Wobbler

Section 1 of S.B.13-250 created an alternative sentencing option for certain Level 4 felony drug offenses that enables an offender to avoid a felony conviction. Under this provision, upon successful completion of a community-based sentence, the drug felony conviction is vacated and replaced with a conviction for a Level 1 drug misdemeanor. This option is known as the "wobbler." The bill states:

In order to expand opportunities for defendants to avoid a drug felony conviction, to reduce the significant negative consequences of that felony conviction, and to provide positive reinforcement for drug defendants who work to successfully complete any community-based sentence imposed by the court, the legislature hereby creates an additional opportunity for those drug defendants who may not otherwise have been eligible for or successful in other statutorily created programs that allow the drug offender to avoid a felony conviction, such as diversion or deferred judgment.

This provision applies to specific Level 4 drug felonies:

- 1. Possession of not more than 4 grams of Schedule I or II drugs or Flunitrazepam, or not more than 2 grams of Methamphetamine, Heroin, Ketamine or Cathinone (C.R.S. 18-18-403.5(2)(a)).
- 2. A Level 4 drug felony for distribution of Schedule I or II drug when the transfer was for contemporaneous consumption (C.R.S. 18-18-405(2)(d)(II)).
- 3. Possession of 12 ounces or more of Marijuana or 3 ounces of Marijuana concentrate (C.R.S. 18-18-406(4)(a)).
- 4. Any violation of C.R.S. 18-18-415 which prohibits the obtaining of a controlled substance by fraud or deceit.

The bill further limits this sentencing option to those defendants with minimal criminal history:

1. No prior convictions for violent crimes,



- 2. No convictions that would have disqualified them for a probation sentence,
- 3. Less than two prior felony drug convictions.

ICON does not explicitly track wobbler-eligible cases.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, the conditions described above were used to identify these cases. However not all of these conditions are sufficiently tracked in ICON to enable precise identification of wobbler-eligible cases (Table 4-1). As a result, the analysis below uses the available data to identify wobbler-eligible cases as precisely as possible.

Table 4-1. Wobbler conditions identifiable in ICON

Necessary condition	Identifiable in ICON	
Conviction statute is wobbler-eligible	Yes	
Minimal criminal history (no prior violent convictions, no probation-	Partial. Out of state data not	
disqualifying convictions, less than two drug felony convictions)	available. Name, birthdate, and	
	state identification number (SID)	
	search may miss cases.	
Meets qualifying amounts for possession of Schedule I or II drugs	No. Amounts are not present.	
Sentenced to the community	Yes	
Had sufficient time to complete sentence to the community	Partial. There is no explicit	
	indication that a sentence was	
	completed. However, an	
	estimated completion date was	
	calculated.	

In the post-S.B.13-250 period, 7,611 cases were convicted with a wobbler statute as the most serious conviction charge (Table 4-2). The majority of these cases (95%) were convicted of possession of a Schedule I or II drug.

Table 4-2. Cases with wobbler-eligible charge as most serious conviction charge, post-S.B.13-250

Conviction category	%	N
Distribution with contemporaneous consumption	1%	89
Marijuana possession >12oz	2%	120
Fraud and deceit	2%	148
Schedule I or II possession	95%	7,254
Total	100%	7,611

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The clerk of the court may or may not enter text in the record specifying wobbler eligibility. However, an examination of the minute orders found that this text was not standardized and was difficult to identify with precision. This text was therefore not used to identify wobbler-eligible cases.

Criminal history<sup>8</sup> was used to further narrow these cases to those that were wobbler-eligible. Table 4-3 shows that 73% of cases were eligible using criminal history as a discriminator. Seventy-five percent of cases with White defendants had wobbler-eligible criminal history, while 49% of cases with Black defendants had wobbler-eligible criminal history (Table 4-4). A majority of cases with male defendants and female defendants met the criminal history restrictions: males: 70%; females: 81% (Table 4-5).

Table 4-3. Cases with wobbler-eligible criminal history, post-S.B.13-250

Met criminal history eligibility	%	N
No	27%	2,053
Yes	73%	5,558
Total	100%	7,611

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

Table 4-4. Cases with wobbler-eligible criminal history, post-S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity\*

Met criminal history eligibility	%	N	
Black	9%	722	
No	51%	365	
Yes	49%	357	
Hispanic	6%	449	
No	23%	104	
Yes	77%	345	
Other	2%	136	
No	19%	26	
Yes	81%	110	
White	83%	6,304	
No	25%	1,558	
Yes	75%	4,746	
Total	100%	7,611	

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.



<sup>\*</sup> Judicial race data does not distinguish between race and ethnicity (particularly "White" and "Hispanic"). As a result, the ability to accurately interpret this data is limited.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Criminal history was found using name, date of birth and state identification number (SID).

Table 4-5. Cases with wobbler-eligible criminal history, post-S.B.13-250, by gender

Met criminal history eligibility	%	N	
Female	29%	2,196	
No	19%	416	
Yes	81%	1,780	
Male	71%	5,405	
No	30%	1,636	
Yes	70%	3,769	
Unknown	<1%	10	
No	10%	1	
Yes	90%	9	
Total	100%	7,611	

The statute further states that the wobbler applies to any "community-based sentence to probation or to a community corrections program." A majority of criminal history-eligible cases (73%) above received a wobbler-eligible sentence: 6% of cases received a sentence to community corrections and 67% received a sentence to probation (Table 4-6).

Table 4-6. Sentences for cases having a wobbler-eligible charge as most serious conviction and criminal history eligible, post-S.B.13-250

Initial sentence	%	N
Community Corrections	6%	294
Deferred Judgment	18%	944
Dept of Corrections	7%	362
Diversion	2%	90
Division of Youth Corrections	<1%	15
Jail	1%	30
Other	<1%	24
Probation	67%	3,585
Youthful Offender System	<1%	1
Subtotal	96%	5,343
Not yet sentenced	4%	215
Total	100%	5,558

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

Under the wobbler provision, upon the successful completion of a sentence to probation or community corrections the felony conviction is set aside and a misdemeanor conviction is takes its place. Due to the three year timeframe of this study, not all sentences would have had time to be successfully completed. The



majority (78%) of wobbler-eligible sentences did not have sufficient time to be completed (Table 4-7). Of those that did have sufficient time to successfully complete their sentence 13% had the felony conviction set aside and a misdemeanor conviction entered. In addition, 20 cases had the felony conviction set aside earlier than the estimated sentence length.<sup>9</sup>

Table 4-7. Wobbler success, by time sufficient to complete sentence to the community, post-S.B.13-250

Time sufficient to complete sentence to community	%	N
No	78%	3,018
Success	1%	20
Pending or ineligible	99%	2,998
Yes	22%	861
Success	13%	114
Pending, not successful, or ineligible	87%	747
Total	100%	3,879

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

Note that 8% (n=12) of the successful cases above were revoked and reinstated at some point; the sentence was completed and the felony conviction set aside (data not presented). Therefore it is still possible that some of the cases that are not yet successful could complete their sentence and have the felony conviction set aside at a later date. In addition, some of the "pending" cases may actually be ineligible for the wobbler for reasons not detectable in ICON, such as criminal history or qualifying amount.

In addition to the cases meeting the wobbler criteria, there were 26 cases in which the felony conviction was set aside and a misdemeanor conviction entered:

- 7 cases with a deferred sentence
- 1 case with no sentences other than fines
- 15 cases with apparent criminal history disqualifiers
- 3 cases in which the drug offense occurred prior to S.B.13-250 effective date

A total of 160 cases had their felony conviction set aside and a misdemeanor conviction entered, per the wobbler provision.

In the pre-S.B.13-250 period nothing comparable to the wobbler existed. The only opportunities to avoid a felony conviction prior to S.B.13-250 were deferred judgments and diversion. The wobbler was intended to give defendants who were not qualified for these sentencing options an opportunity to avoid a felony conviction. To analyze the effect of the wobbler option deferred judgments and diversion sentences for cases



25

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Except for deferred Judgments and diversion ICON does not contain an indicator that the sentence imposed was completed. Therefore an estimated sentence completion date was calculated from the sentence date and sentence length. This estimation is inexact since sentences can be modified later.

having a wobbler-eligible conviction pre- and post-S.B.13-250 were examined. For the pre-S.B.13-250 sample cases with the closest matching wobbler-eligible statute were selected (Appendix C). No comparable statute existed pre-S.B.13-250 for distribution of a Schedule I or II drug with contemporaneous consumption (C.R.S. 18-18-405(2)(d)(II)). The pre-S.B.13-250 sample therefore includes those who would not have been eligible for the wobbler. The selected pre-S.B.13-250 cases were further restricted to those with qualifying criminal history in order to match the wobbler conditions as closely as possible.

A deferred judgment was awarded to 33% of cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 period and to 18% of cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period (Table 4-8). Defendants received diversion in 2% of cases pre-S.B.13-250 and in 2% of cases post-S.B.13-250. In total, 35% (deferred + diversion) of cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 period could avoid a felony conviction if they were successful, versus 20% (deferred + diversion) in the post-S.B.13-250 period. However, an additional 73% (community corrections + probation) of cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period also have the opportunity as a wobbler to have their felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor, provided (for possession cases) their amounts were within the statutory limits<sup>11</sup> and they successfully completed their sentence.

Table 4-8. Initial sentence for cases with <u>qualifying criminal history</u> and most serious conviction charge is a wobbler-statute, pre-and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		Α	fter
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N
Community Corrections	7%	345	6%	294
Deferred Judgment	33%	1,642	18%	942
Dept of Corrections	13%	654	7%	362
Diversion	2%	89	2%	90
Division of Youth Corrections	<1%	13	<1%	15
Jail	<1%	19	1%	30
Juvenile Detention	<1%	2	0%	0
Other	1%	43	<1%	24
Probation	44%	2,210	67%	3,585
Youthful Offender System	<1%	1	<1%	1
Total	100%	5,018	100%	5,343

Data source: District and juvenile court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.



26

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> In the post-S.B.13-250 period distribution of a Schedule I or II drug with contemporaneous consumption comprise 2% of the sample. In contrast, in the pre-S.B.13-250 period distribution of a Schedule I or II drug convictions comprise 23% of the sample.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Prior to S.B.13-250 possession of a Schedule I or II drug had two felony levels: less than 4gm as F6 and more than 4gm as F4. Using data from cases charged with these statutes, it was found that 77% of possession cases were charged with less than 4 grams of a Schedule I or II drug.

**Summary.** Section 1 of S.B.13-250 created an alternative sentencing option for some Level 4 felony drug offenses that enables an offender to avoid a felony conviction. Under this provision, upon the successful completion of a community-based sentence, the drug felony conviction is vacated and replaced with a conviction for a Level 1 drug misdemeanor. This option is known as the "wobbler." The wobbler is intended for offenders who are otherwise not qualified for deferred judgments or diversion, and is limited to those with minimal criminal history. The wobbler applies to specific Level 4 drug felonies:

- 1. Possession of not more than 4 grams of Schedule I or II drugs or Flunitrazepam, or not more than 2 grams of Methamphetamine, Heroin, Ketamine or Cathinone (C.R.S. 18-18-403.5(2)(a)).
- 2. A Level 4 drug felony for distribution of Schedule I or II drug when the transfer was for contemporaneous consumption (C.R.S. 18-18-405(2)(d)(II)).
- 3. Possession of 12 ounces or more of Marijuana or 3 ounces of Marijuana concentrate (C.R.S. 18-18-406(4)(a)).
- 4. Any violation of C.R.S. 18-18-415 which prohibits the obtaining of a controlled substance by fraud or deceit.

There were 7,611 cases with a wobbler-eligible statute as the highest conviction charge in the post-S.B.13-250 period, the majority of which (95%) were for possession of a schedule I or II controlled substance. The wobbler statute limits possession to less than 4gm but it is not known if the possession cases met this quantity limit because this information is not tracked in ICON. Most cases (73%, n=5,558) appeared to qualify given the statute's criminal history limitations. Seventy-five percent (75%) of cases with White defendants (n=4,746) had wobbler-eligible criminal history, while 49% of cases with Black defendants (n=357) had wobbler-eligible criminal history. A majority of cases with male and female defendants met the criminal history restrictions: males: 70% (n=3,769); females: 81% (1,780).

The wobbler applies to sentences to probation or community corrections. Wobbler-eligible sentences were given to 3,879 cases, but only 22% (n=861) had sufficient time to complete their sentence within the analysis three-year timeframe. Of those, 13% (n=114) successfully finished their sentence and had their felony conviction replaced with a misdemeanor per the wobbler provision. Twenty more appeared to finish their sentence early and have their felony conviction replaced. An additional 26 that did not appear to meet the wobbler criteria also had the felony conviction set aside in favor of a misdemeanor for a total of 160 wobbler-successful cases. In 12 of these successful cases, a revocation occurred at some point, but the defendant was able to complete their sentence and have the felony conviction set aside.

In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, the only options to avoid a felony conviction were deferred judgment or diversion. These two sentencing options were compared pre- and post-S.B.13-250 for cases with a wobbler-eligible conviction and qualifying criminal history. For the pre-S.B.13-250 sample cases with the closest matching statute to the wobbler were selected. Although the resulting pre-S.B.13-250 sample was not an exact match, the comparison of sentences in the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods shows that the use of deferred judgments and diversion declined overall from 35% (n=1,731) to 20% (n=1,032) of convictions. However the wobbler provision enabled an additional 73% (n=3,879) of cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period to



potentially have the felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor, provided they met quantity limits and successfully completed the sentence to the community.

# **Part 5: Exhaustion of Remedies for Level 4 Drug Felonies**

Sections 2 and 3 of S.B.13-250 instruct the court to consider all sentencing options prior to sentencing a defendant to the DOC, in order to "ensure that the state's costly prison resources are used for those defendants for whom another sentence is not appropriate or will not properly meet the goals of community safety and rehabilitation of the offender." Exhaustion of remedies applies to Level 4 drug felonies<sup>12</sup> at sentencing, and resentencing after a revocation to probation or community corrections.

Before sentencing an offender to the DOC the court is instructed to determine that this would be the most suitable sentence based on the following:

- Taking into consideration the facts of the case,
- Considering the defendant's willingness to participate in treatment,
- Finding that all other sanctions have been tried and failed,
- Finding that other sanctions are unlikely to work,
- Finding that other sanctions present an unacceptable risk to public safety.

The Level 4 drug offenses include the following:

- 1. Possession of Schedule I or II drugs (C.R.S. 18-18-403.5,(2)(a)),
- 2. Distribution of less than 4gm of Schedule III or IV drugs (C.R.S. 18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)) or Schedule I or II with contemporaneous consumption (C.R.S. 18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)),
- 3. Marijuana possession (C.R.S. 18-18-406(4)(a)), distribution (C.R.S. 18-18-406(2)(b)(III)(D)), and cultivation (C.R.S. 18-18-406(3)(b)) with quantity limits, and Marijuana distribution of 1oz or less to a minor (C.R.S. 18-18-406(1)(d)),
- 4. Obtaining a controlled substance by fraud or deceit (C.R.S. 18-18-415),
- 5. Imitation controlled substance manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute (C.R.S. 18-18-422(1)(b)(I)).

This section analyzes the impact of the exhaustion of remedies provision on A) direct sentences to the DOC, and B) revocations to the DOC from probation and community corrections, to determine if the proportion of cases sentenced to the DOC after S.B.13-250's enactment declined as compared to the prior three years. For each of the DF4 offenses, the closest matching pre-S.B.13-250 offense was analyzed (see Appendix D). Because S.B.13-250 made changes to drug quantities that apply to specific crime types, an exact pre-S.B.13-250 match did not exist for some offenses.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The specific level 4 drug felonies that exhaustion of remedies applies to are not specified in S.B.13-250. Therefore, all level 4 drug felony statutes were analyzed.

#### A. Direct Sentences to DOC

None of the factors that S.B.13-250 instructs the court to take into consideration, such as the offender's willingness to participate in treatment, or that other sanctions are unlikely to work, are recorded in ICON. The impact of the exhaustion of remedies provision was therefore measured by determining the proportion of cases in district court<sup>13</sup> that received a sentence to DOC, pre- and post-S.B.13-250.

Criminal history was also examined to determine if defendants with more serious criminal history, thus a potentially higher public safety risk, received a DOC sentence in the post-S.B.13-250 period than in the prior period. Criminal history was measured as the number of prior court cases containing a felony conviction. Prior convictions were found by using name, date of birth, and the state identification number (SID) of the defendant. Cases may have been missed due to spelling or birthdate variations. In addition, factors other than criminal history and unrecorded factors in ICON likely affect the sentence given to a defendant.

#### Possession of Schedule I or II Drugs

Possession of any quantity of a Schedule I or II drug is now a Level 4 drug felony. Prior to S.B.13-250 possession of less than 4gm was classified as F6 and more than 4gm was classified as F4. Because S.B.13-250 removed drug amount limits, cases in the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 samples are comparable. The number of cases with possession of Schedule I or II controlled substance as the most serious conviction charge increased from 5,687 pre-S.B.13-250 to 6,755 post-S.B.13-250 (Table 5-1). However the proportion of cases with sentences to the DOC decreased in the post-S.B.13-250 period from 19% to 14%.

Table 5-1. Initial sentence for cases with possession of Schedule I or II drug as most serious conviction crime, pre- and post-S.B.13-250.

	Before		Af	fter
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N
Community Corrections	9%	526	8%	527
Deferred Judgment	27%	1,551	13%	897
Dept of Corrections	19%	1,074	14%	966
Diversion	1%	55	1%	69
Jail	<1%	23	1%	38
Other	1%	48	<1%	24
Probation	42%	2,409	63%	4,233
Youthful Offender System	<1%	1	<1%	1
Total	100%	5,687	100%	6,755

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Cases were restricted to those filed in district court since the majority sentences to DOC occur in district court.

Post-S.B.13-250 possession cases sentenced to the DOC had more serious criminal history, as measured by prior felony convictions, than those sentenced to DOC in the pre-S.B.13-250 period (Table 5-2). In the pre-S.B.13-250 period, 19% of cases sentenced to DOC for possession had no prior felony conviction. In the post-S.B.13-250 period 12% had no prior felony conviction.

Table 5-2. Number of prior felony convictions for possession cases sentenced to the DOC, pre- and post-S.B.13-250.

	Before		After	
Prior felony convictions (cases)	%	N	%	N
None	19%	201	12%	112
1-3	48%	511	45%	435
4-6	29%	316	35%	341
7-9	4%	38	7%	64
>9	1%	8	1%	14
Total	100%	1,074	100%	966

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

#### **Distribution of Schedules III and IV Drugs**

Distribution of Schedules III and IV drugs are now Level 4 drug felonies, provided the amount is under 4gm. <sup>14</sup> Prior to S.B.13-250, these crimes were classified as F4s and F5s, respectively, for any amount. For distribution convictions, an exact comparison between the pre- and post- period cannot be made because distribution of Schedule III and IV drugs exceeding 4gm post-S.B.13-250 is now a Level 3 drug felony and not subject to exhaustion of remedies. Therefore some of the cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 sample (which did not have quantity limits), are not directly comparable with those in the post-S.B.13-250 period. With that caveat in mind, Table 5-3 shows that the proportion of sentences to the DOC decreased in the post-S.B.13-250 period to 23% of convictions from 29% in the pre-S.B.13-250 period.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Distribution of Schedule I or II drugs with contemporaneous consumption (C.R.S. 18-18-405(2)(d)(II)) is a Level 4 drug felony but is not examined here because there is no comparable pre-S.B.13-250 statute. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, there were 88 cases in which this statute was the most serious conviction charge; of those, 3 received a DOC sentence.

Table 5-3. Initial sentence for cases with distribution of Schedules III and IV as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		After	
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N
Community Corrections	8%	40	4%	9
Deferred Judgment	7%	35	4%	9
Dept of Corrections	29%	152	23%	55
Jail	1%	3	2%	5
Other	<1%	2	<1%	1
Probation	56%	297	67%	162
Total	100%	529	100%	241

In addition, those sentenced to the DOC in the post-S.B.13-250 period had a more serious criminal history. Prior to S.B.13-250, 32% of cases sentenced to the DOC for the distribution of Schedule III or IV drugs had no prior felony convictions (Table 5-4). In the post-13-250 period, only 16% of cases had no prior felony convictions.

Table 5-4. Criminal history for cases sentenced to DOC with distribution of Schedule III or IV as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Bet	Before		ter
Prior felony convictions (cases)	%	N	%	N
None	32%	49	16%	9
1-3	41%	62	42%	23
4-6	25%	38	35%	19
7-9	2%	3	5%	3
>9	0%	0	2%	1
Total	100%	152	100%	55

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

#### Marijuana Offenses<sup>15</sup>

The new DF4 felony applies to the following Marijuana possession, distribution, and cultivation offenses:

- Possession of more than 12 ounces, previously classified as F6,
- Distribution between 4 and 12oz., previously classified as F5,



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Distribution of 1oz or less of Marijuana to a minor (C.R.S. 18-18-406(1)(d)) has no equivalent crime in the pre-S.B.13-250 period and was not included in the comparison analysis. In the post-S.B.13-250 period there were 28 cases with this offense as the most serious conviction charge, 2 of which received a sentence to the DOC.

Cultivation of 7 to 30 plants, previously classified as F5.

The prohibited amounts for possession and cultivation above remained the same between the pre- and post-periods and were therefore comparable. However, the limit for distribution in the pre- period was less than 5lbs whereas in the post-S.B.13-250 period it is between 4 and 12 ounces for the Level 4 drug felony, but is a Level 3 felony for over 12 ounces. Consequently some of the pre-S.B.13-250 cases in the table below are not directly comparable to the post-S.B.13-250 cases. With that caveat in mind, 4% of the cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period received a sentence to the DOC versus 7% of cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 period (Table 5-5).

Table 5-5. Initial sentence for cases with DF4-comparable Marijuana offenses as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		After		
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N	
Community Corrections	3%	19	1%	2	
Deferred Judgment	37%	208	19%	34	
Dept of Corrections	7%	39	4%	7	
Diversion	1%	7	1%	1	
Jail	1%	3	1%	1	
Other	1%	7	1%	1	
Probation	49%	274	74%	129	
Total	100%	557	100%	175	

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

The post-S.B.13-250 cases sentenced to the DOC above had more serious criminal history than the pre-S.B.13-250 cases. Of the 7 sentenced to DOC in the post-S.B.13-250 period, 29% (n=2) had no prior felony convictions versus 56% (n=22) with no prior felony cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 period (Data not shown).

#### **Obtaining Controlled Substance by Fraud or Deceit**

All of the statutes for obtaining a controlled substance by fraud or deceit are now DF4 felonies. Previously these were classified as F6s. These statutes were directly comparable between the periods. While the number of cases with fraud or deceit as the most serious conviction charge declined from 360 to 144, the proportion of cases that received a DOC sentence rose in the post-S.B.13-250 period from 7% to 9% (Table 5-6).



Table 5-6. Initial sentence for cases with Fraud and Deceit as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		After		
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N	
Community Corrections	9%	32	2%	3	
Deferred Judgment	39%	140	35%	51	
Dept of Corrections	7%	26	9%	13	
Diversion	5%	18	3%	5	
Jail	0%	0	1%	2	
Other	0%	0	0%	0	
Probation	40%	144	49%	70	
Total	100%	360	100%	144	

The number of cases that received a DOC sentence in both the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods were small, and so this analysis must be interpreted with caution. The seriousness of the criminal history of those that received a sentence to DOC in the post-S.B.13-250 period increased: 2 had no prior felony convictions pre-S.B.13-250 and none in the post-S.B.13-250 period (Table 5-7).

Table 5-7. Criminal history for cases sentenced to the DOC for Fraud and Deceit as the most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		After	
Prior felony convictions (cases)	%	N	%	N
None	8%	2	0%	0
1-3	54%	14	38%	5
4-6	31%	8	46%	6
7-9	4%	1	8%	1
>9	4%	1	8%	1
Total	100%	26	100%	13

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

#### **Imitation Controlled Substances**

The statute governing the manufacture, distribution or possession of <u>imitation</u> controlled substances is the same in the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods. In the post-S.B.13-250 period, sentences to the DOC increased from 22% of cases (n=18) to 36% of cases (n=8), although the overall number of cases in both periods is small and so these findings should be interpreted with caution (n=82 pre-S.B.13-250 and n=22 post-S.B.13-250) (data not presented).



#### Comparison of DOC Sentences for Level 4 Drug Felonies to Levels 1 through 3 Drug Felonies

The use of DOC sentences in all DF4 felony convictions was compared to the use of DOC sentences in DF3 through DF1 to determine if the overall imposition of prison sentences declined or just the use of DOC in DF4 convictions that are subject to the exhaustion of remedies provision. The proportion of felony cases convicted at Levels 1 through 3 increased from 20% of cases pre-S.B.13-250 to 27% of cases (Table 5-8). A higher proportion of cases convicted at Levels 1 through 3 received a DOC sentence than those convicted at the Level 4 felony in both periods. The use of DOC decreased for all felony levels in the post-S.B.13-250 period, from 42% to 38% in DF3 to DF1 cases and from 18% to 14% for DF4 level cases.

Table 5-8. Initial sentences for cases with felony drugs as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Ве	fore	Af	ter
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N
DF1 through DF3 and pre-S.B.13-250				
comparable convictions	20%	1,792	27%	2,803
Community Corrections	10%	180	12%	331
Deferred Judgment	9%	162	10%	281
Dept of Corrections	42%	754	38%	1,077
Diversion	1%	9	1%	15
Jail	<1%	2	<1%	5
Other	1%	9	1%	15
Probation	38%	675	38%	1,079
Youthful Offender System	<1%	1	0%	0
DF4 and pre-S.B.13-250 comparable				
convictions	80%	7,215	73%	7,449
Community Corrections	9%	625	7%	545
Deferred Judgment	27%	1,948	13%	1,004
Dept of Corrections	18%	1,308	14%	1,054
Diversion	1%	80	1%	79
Jail	<1%	31	1%	47
Other	1%	62	<1%	27
Probation	44%	3,160	63%	4,692
Youthful Offender System	<1%	1	<1%	1
Total	100%	9,007	100%	10,252

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.



#### Impact of Exhaustion of Remedies by Race

For all Level 4 felony drug convictions, the proportion of cases with White defendants that received a sentence to DOC declined from 17% pre-S.B.13-250 to 13% post-S.B.13-250. For DF4 cases with Black defendants, the proportion sentenced to DOC declined from 23% to 20% (Table 5-9). Blacks were more likely to receive a sentence to DOC compared to the other race/ethnicity categories.



Table 5-9. Initial sentences for cases with Level 4 felony drugs as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250, by race/ethnicity\*

	Bef	ore	After	
DF4 and pre-S.B.13-250 comparable convictions	%	N	%	N
Black				
Community Corrections	9%	96	8%	61
Deferred	22%	221	10%	76
Dept of Corrections	23%	236	20%	151
Diversion	0%	1	1%	4
Jail	0%	1	1%	7
Other	0%	2	0%	1
Probation	45%	464	60%	448
Hispanic				
Community Corrections	6%	37	8%	34
Deferred	21%	136	12%	51
Dept of Corrections	22%	144	16%	67
Diversion	0%	2	0%	1
Jail	1%	5	0%	1
Other	1%	8	0%	1
Probation	49%	314	63%	260
Youthful Offender System	0%	0	0%	1
Other				
Community Corrections	8%	14	5%	6
Deferred	25%	41	17%	20
Dept of Corrections	16%	27	8%	9
Diversion	1%	1	2%	2
Jail	0%	0	1%	1
Other	1%	1	0%	0
Probation	50%	83	68%	81
White				
Community Corrections	9%	478	7%	444
Deferred	29%	1,550	14%	857
Dept of Corrections	17%	901	13%	827
Diversion	1%	76	1%	72
Jail	0%	25	1%	38
Other	1%	51	0%	25
Probation	43%	2,299	63%	3,903
Youthful Offender System	0%	1	0%	0
Total	100%	7,215	100%	7,449



<sup>\*</sup>Judicial race data does not distinguish between race and ethnicity (particularly "White" and "Hispanic"). As a result, the ability to accurately interpret this data is limited.

**Summary.** Section 2 of S.B.13-250 instructed the court to exhaust all remedies before sentencing a defendant to the DOC for a Level 4 felony drug offense, taking into consideration factors such as participation in treatment, likelihood of success, and public safety. The factors S.B.13-250 instructs the court to consider are not captured in ICON; nevertheless, the proportion of cases that received a DOC sentence in the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods was analyzed. Criminal history, as defined as prior felony convictions, was also examined to determine if those who received a sentence to DOC in the post-S.B.13-250 period had more serious offending history than those who received a DOC sentence in the prior period. The pre-S.B.13-250 sample contained cases with a comparable Level 4 drug conviction, although exact matches for some post-S.B.13-250 offenses did not exist. The exhaustion of remedies provision applies to the following Level 4 drug felonies:

- 1. Possession of Schedule I or II drugs (C.R.S. 18-18-403.5,(2)(a)),
- 2. Distribution of less than 4gm of Schedule III or IV drugs (C.R.S. 18-18-405(2)(d)(I)) or Schedule I or II with contemporaneous consumption (C.R.S. 18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)),
- 3. Marijuana possession (C.R.S. 18-18-406(4)(a)), distribution (C.R.S. 18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)), and cultivation (C.R.S. 18-18-406(3)(b)) with quantity limits, and Marijuana distribution of 1oz or less to a minor (C.R.S. 18-18-406(1)(d)),
- 4. Obtaining a controlled substance by fraud or deceit (C.R.S. 18-18-415), and
- 5. Imitation controlled substance manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute (C.R.S. 18-18-422(1)(b)(I)).

The number of convictions for possession of Schedule I or II drugs increased from 5,687 pre-S.B.13-250 to 6,755 post-S.B.13-250, but the proportion of cases that received a DOC sentence declined from 19% (n=1,074) to 14% (n=966). Prior to S.B.13-250 possession of a Schedule I or II drug had two felony levels, depending on amount. S.B.13-250 did away with amount limits, and therefore the pre- and post- samples were comparable.

For distribution of Schedule III or IV drug convictions the proportion of sentences to DOC declined from 29% (n=152) of convictions to 23% (n=55) in the post-S.B.13-250 period. However the offenses between the preand post-S.B.13-250 periods are not directly comparable because S.B.13-250 introduced a limit of 4gm for the Level 4 felony, and created a Level 3 felony for quantities greater than 4gm. Prior to S.B.13-250 there were no quantity limits for distribution of Schedule III or IV drugs. Therefore some of the cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 sample would not be subject to the exhaustion of remedies provision, making the samples not directly comparable.

Several Marijuana possession, distribution, and cultivation statutes are now classified at the DF4 level. The proportion of DOC sentences for convictions of these statutes declined from 7% (n=39) to 4% (n=7) in the post-S.B.13-250 period. While the statutes prohibiting possession and cultivation were comparable between the periods, S.B.13-250 introduced a Level 3 drug felony for distribution greater than 12 ounces, whereas in the pre-S.B.13-250 period the limit was less than 5lbs. Therefore, some of the cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 sample would not be subject to the exhaustion of remedies provision, making the samples not directly comparable.

The statutes prohibiting obtaining controlled substances by fraud or deceit did not change between the preand post-S.B.13-250 periods and were therefore directly comparable. The proportion of DOC sentences increased from 7% (n=26) of convictions to 9% (n=13) of convictions in the post-S.B.13-250 period.



The statute governing the manufacture, distribution or possession of <u>imitation</u> controlled substances is the same in the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods. In the post-S.B.13-250 period the proportion of sentences to the DOC increased from 22% of cases (n=18) to 36% of cases (n=8), although the overall number of cases in both periods is small (n=82 pre-S.B.13-250 and n=22 post-S.B.13-250).

Defendants in cases sentenced to DOC for all Level 4 drug felonies had more serious criminal history, as measured by prior felony convictions, in the post-S.B.13-250 period. More serious criminal history occurred in the post-S.B.13-250 period across all the Level 4 felony possession, distribution, Marijuana, and fraud and deceit convictions as compared to convictions in comparable pre-S.B.13-250 cases.

The proportion of DOC sentences in DF4 convictions was compared to the proportion of DOC sentences in higher felony convictions to determine if any difference existed. While the proportion of sentences to DOC for DF4 convictions decreased from 18% (n=1,308) to 14% (n=1,054) post-S.B.13-250, the proportion of DOC sentences also decreased for higher felony (DF3 through DF1) convictions, from 42% (n=754) to 38% (n=1,077).

Seventeen percent (17%) (n=901) of cases with White defendants received a sentence to DOC for a Level 4 felony conviction pre-S.B.13-250. In the post-S.B.13-250 period that declined to 13% (n=827) of cases. For DF4 conviction with Black defendants the proportion sentenced to DOC declined from 23% (n=236) to 20% (n=151).

#### B. Revocations from Probation and Community Corrections

Exhaustion of remedies prior to sentencing a defendant to DOC for a Level 4 felony conviction also applies to revocations from probation. Using the same matched samples in the previous analyses, the proportion of revocations from probation to DOC for Level 4 felony drug convictions in district court was analyzed pre- and post-S.B.13-250. As noted above, the pre-S.B.13-250 sample contains cases that would not be eligible for the exhaustion of remedies provision due to S.B.13-250 changes to quantity limits.

More DF4 level cases were sentenced to probation in the post-S.B.13-250 period than in the prior period: 3,160 pre-S.B.13-250 and 4,692 post-S.B.13-250 (Table 5-10). Revocations from probation increased in the post-S.B.13-250 period from 31% of cases to 39%. Of those revoked, 32% were revoked to DOC pre-S.B.13-250 versus 27% post-S.B.13-250. Note that the revocation to DOC did not necessarily occur on the first revocation event, but may have occurred after multiple revocation-reinstatement episodes. In addition, these data represent revocations that occurred within the respective pre- or post- three-year periods.



Table 5-10. DF4-comparable cases sentenced to probation and later revoked and sentenced to DOC, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Bef	ore	After		
	% N		%	N	
Not revoked	69%	2,189	61%	2,875	
Revoked	31%	971	39%	1,817	
Revoked to other*	68%	665	73%	1,319	
Revoked to DOC	32%	306	27%	498	
Total	100%	3,160	100%	4,692	

Section 3 of S.B.13-250 also applies the exhaustion of remedies provision to Level 4 felony drug defendants who are revoked from, or rejected by, a community corrections program. Table 5-11 shows no difference between the pre- and post-S.B.13-250 periods in the proportion of cases that were terminated or rejected from a community corrections sentence and subsequently sentenced to DOC (35% pre-S.B.13-250 versus 35% post-S.B.13-250).

Table 5-11. DF4-comparable cases sentenced to community corrections and later terminated or rejected and sentenced to DOC, preand post-S.B.13-250

	Before		After	
Terminated or rejected from ComCor to DOC	%	N	%	N
No	65%	408	65%	356
Yes	35%	217	35%	189
Total	100%	625	100%	545

Data source: District court records were extracted from Judicial Branch's Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by DCJ/ORS.

**Summary**. S.B.13-250 directed the court to exhaust all remedies before sentencing a defendant convicted of a Level 4 drug felony to DOC following a revocation from probation or termination from community corrections. Using the same cohorts as in the previous analyses, the proportion of revocations from probation or from community corrections to DOC for Level 4 felony drug convictions in district court was analyzed pre- and post-S.B.13-250. The closest matching pre-S.B.13-250 offense was identified for each post-S.B.13-250 Level 4 offense, however due to S.B.13-250 changes to quantity limits, an exact match did not exist for all offenses. As a result some cases in the pre-S.B.13-250 sample would not be eligible for the exhaustion of remedies provision.

More DF4 level cases were sentenced to probation in the post-S.B.13-250 period than in the prior period: 3,160 pre-S.B.13-250 and 4,692 post-S.B.13-250. Revocations from probation increased in the post- period to 39% (1,817) of cases from 31% (n=971). However the proportion of probation cases revoked and re-sentenced to DOC fell in the post-S.B.13-250 period from 32% (n=306) of cases to 27% (n=498). In contrast, the



<sup>\*</sup> Includes revoked and reinstated to Probation or some other sentence such as Jail.

proportion of cases rejected or revoked from community corrections and re-sentenced to DOC remained unchanged at 35% for both the pre- and post- periods (n=217 and n=189).

## Part 6: Intensive Supervision for Misdemeanants

Section 35 of S.B.13-250 amended the intensive supervision probation statute to allow defendants convicted of a misdemeanor to participate if they were assessed as higher risk. Prior to S.B.13-250, defendants convicted at a misdemeanor level were not eligible for intensive supervision. Since the enactment of S.B.13-250, the state Division of Probation Services has admitted 53 males and 8 females convicted with a drug misdemeanor or petty offense as the most serious conviction to intensive supervision (data not presented).<sup>16</sup>

## Part 7: Second Chance for Deferred Judgment Failures

Deferred judgment is a sentencing option that enables a defendant to have the charge or charges against them dismissed, provided they successfully complete their sentence. In a deferred judgment the defendant enters into an agreement with the district attorney in which he/she pleads guilty to the charge or charges, and agrees to the conditions specified. Upon successful completion of these conditions, the guilty plea is withdrawn and the charges are dismissed.

However, if the defendant fails to comply with the agreement, the court enters a conviction and sentence on the original guilty plea. Section 64 of S.B.13-250 allows, but does not require, the court to continue the deferred judgment in the event of failure, giving defendants with drug offenses another opportunity to complete their sentence and have the charges dismissed. The effect of this provision was analyzed by comparing the rate of reinstatement for failures from deferred judgments, pre- and post-S.B.13-250.

As noted previously the use of deferred judgments declined in the post-S.B.13-250 period.

Table 7-1 shows that deferred judgments declined overall from 16% of drug convictions to 9% across district, juvenile and county courts.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Data provided by the Division of Probation Services, Office of the State Court Administrator.

Table 7-1. Initial sentence for cases with drug offense as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Before		А	fter
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N
Community Corrections	3%	810	4%	897
Deferred Judgment	16%	4,100	9%	2,195
Dept of Corrections	8%	2,067	9%	2,143
Diversion	1%	151	1%	245
Division of Youth Corrections	<1%	38	<1%	49
Jail	4%	953	7%	1,780
Juvenile Detention	<1%	19	<1%	9
Other	35%	9,010	13%	3,034
Probation	33%	8,630	57%	13,889
Youthful Offender System	<1%	2	<1%	1
Total	100%	25,780	100%	24,242

This decline was not uniform across all courts. Deferred judgments declined in district court from 16% to 8%, and in county court from 13% to 10%, but increased in juvenile court from 33% of drug convictions pre-S.B.13-250 to 37% post-S.B.13-250 (Table 7-2).



Table 7-2. Initial sentence for cases with drug offense as most serious conviction charge, pre- and post-S.B.13-250, by court

	Ве	fore	Af	ter
Initial sentence	%	N	%	N
District	55%	14,069	82%	19,989
Community Corrections	6%	810	4%	897
Deferred Judgment	16%	2,274	8%	1,501
Dept of Corrections	15%	2,067	11%	2,143
Diversion	1%	91	<1%	99
Jail	5%	740	8%	1,626
Other	4%	607	3%	557
Probation	53%	7,478	66%	13,165
Youthful Offender System	<1%	2	<1%	1
Juvenile	6%	1,551	4%	949
Deferred Judgment	33%	517	37%	349
Diversion	3%	48	5%	44
Division of Youth Corrections	2%	38	5%	49
Jail	1%	15	2%	16
Juvenile Detention	1%	19	1%	9
Other	7%	114	7%	68
Probation	52%	800	44%	414
County	39%	10,160	14%	3,305
Deferred Judgment	13%	1,309	10%	345
Diversion	<1%	12	3%	102
Jail	2%	198	4%	138
Other	82%	8,289	73%	2,409
Probation	3%	352	9%	311
Total	100%	25,780	100%	24,243

Revocations<sup>17</sup> from deferred judgments occurred in 18% of cases pre-S.B.13-250 and in 20% of cases post-S.B.13-250 (Table 7-3). The proportion of cases in which a deferred judgment was reinstated increased slightly from 3% to 4% post-S.B.13-250.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The revocation had to have occurred within the three year pre- or post- period to be counted.

Table 7-3. Revocations from deferred judgment and revocation result, pre- and post-S.B.13-250

	Bet	fore	Af	ter
Revoked from Deferred Judgment	%	N	%	N
No	82%	3,356	80%	1,754
Yes	18%	744	20%	441
Community Corrections	6%	45	7%	33
Dept of Corrections	4%	27	4%	18
Jail	5%	35	7%	33
Other	2%	14	2%	8
Probation	66%	492	63%	276
Reinstated	3%	21	4%	16
Unknown*	15%	110	13%	57
Total	100%	4,100	100%	2,195

Cases in juvenile court experienced an increase in deferred judgments being reinstated from 6% pre-S.B.13-250 to 16% post-S.B.13-250 although this represented only 10 cases in both periods (Table 7-4) so the findings must be viewed with caution.



<sup>\*</sup>No new sentence followed the revocation event, therefore the result was unknown.

Table 7-4. Deferred judgment revocation result, pre- and post-S.B.13-250, by court

	Bef	ore	A	fter	
Revocation Result	%	N	%	N	
District Court	72%	533	78%	342	
Community Corrections	8%	45	10%	33	
Dept of Corrections	5%	27	5%	18	
Jail	3%	17	7%	24	
Probation	71%	376	68%	232	
Reinstated	2%	8	2%	6	
Unknown*	11%	60	8%	29	
Juvenile Court	21%	159	15%	64	
Jail	7%	11	9%	6	
Other	9%	14	13%	8	
Probation	68%	108	50%	32	
Reinstated	6%	10	16%	10	
Unknown*	10%	16	13%	8	
<b>County Court</b>	7%	52	8%	35	
Jail	13%	7	9%	3	
Probation	15%	8	34%	12	
Reinstated	6%	3	0%	0	
Unknown*	65%	34	57%	20	
Total	100%	744	100%	441	

**Summary.** S.B.13-250 allows the court to reinstate deferred judgments upon revocation for drug offenses. Reinstatement rates for deferred judgment revocations were compared pre- and post-S.B.13-250. The use of the deferred judgment sentencing option declined from 16% (n=4,100) pre-S.B.13-250 to 9% (n=2,195) of drug convictions overall in the post-S.B.13-250 period. However the use of deferred judgments in juvenile court increased from 33% (n=517) to 37% (n=349) of drug convictions. Revocations from deferred judgments increased from 18% (n=744) of cases to 20% (n=441) of cases in the post-S.B.13-250 period. The rate of reinstatement of the deferment increased slightly overall between the periods (3% n=21 versus 4% n=16 post-S.B.13-250). Juvenile revocations experienced an increase in the number of deferred Judgment reinstatements: 6% to 16%, however the number of cases is very small (n=10 in both periods).



<sup>\*</sup>No new sentence followed the revocation event, therefore the result was unknown.

## **Part 8: Reporting Requirements**

Section 58 of S.B.13-250 requires the Division of Criminal Justice to collect specific data elements related to court filings and pre-filing diversion (See Appendix D). *The following data pertain to cases filed or diverted from 10/1/2013 to 9/30/2016 in district, juvenile, and county court, and having a drug offense committed within the same timeframe.* Denver County data were not available. These data represent cases, not individuals.

Table 8-1. Drug cases diverted pre-filing post-S.B.13-250, by judicial district\*

<u>District</u>	Pre-filing diversion
1 <sup>st</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Data not available
3 <sup>rd</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
4 <sup>th</sup>	Yes. However, complete "specialty drug court"
5 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
6 <sup>th</sup>	Very limited Pre-file Diversion.
7 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
8 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
9 <sup>th</sup>	Yes, 4 cases diverted
10 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
11 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
12 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
13 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
14 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
15 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
16 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
17 <sup>th</sup>	Yes, 64 cases diverted from 2/2015 to 9/2016
18 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases offered.
19 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
20 <sup>th</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
21 <sup>st</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases
22 <sup>nd</sup>	No Pre-file Diversion for Drug Cases offered. (Five cases diverted in last 12 months).

Data source: Colorado District Attorneys' Council.

#### \*Pre-filing diversion notes:

Drug cases for adults in which the charge(s) in the case were solely drug-related charges pursuant to Title 18, Article 18.



Table 8-2. Total cases filed containing a drug offense post-S.B.13-250, by judicial district

	Drug offe	Drug offense is most				
	serious fi	serious filing charge				
District	No	Yes	Total			
1 <sup>st</sup>	1,383	2,825	4,208			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	486	4,856	5,342			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	46	186	232			
4 <sup>th</sup>	1,571	3,559	5,130			
5 <sup>th</sup>	180	554	734			
6 <sup>th</sup>	124	244	368			
7 <sup>th</sup>	204	491	695			
8 <sup>th</sup>	912	2,291	3,203			
9 <sup>th</sup>	201	461	662			
10 <sup>th</sup>	373	1,047	1,420			
11 <sup>th</sup>	206	653	859			
12 <sup>th</sup>	213	424	637			
13 <sup>th</sup>	205	434	639			
14 <sup>th</sup>	110	380	490			
15 <sup>th</sup>	86	266	352			
16 <sup>th</sup>	65	205	270			
17 <sup>th</sup>	1,199	3,535	4,734			
18 <sup>th</sup>	1,330	3,252	4,582			
19 <sup>th</sup>	605	2,004	2,609			
20 <sup>th</sup>	510	1,350	1,860			
21 <sup>st</sup>	649	1,612	2,261			
22 <sup>nd</sup>	62	217	279			
Total	10,720	30,846	41,566			

Table 8-3. Cases filed post-S.B.13-250 with drug offense as most serious filing charge, by race/ethnicity,\* gender, and prior felony convictions

Count of prior felony				
convictions (cases)	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
Black	447	2,280		2,727
None	240	902	0	1,142
1-2	123	594	0	717
3-4	49	429	0	478
5-6	27	238	0	265
>7	8	117	0	125
Hispanic	453	1,467		1,920



Count of prior felony convictions (cases)	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
None	312	982	0	1,294
1-2	100	337	0	437
3-4	33	100	0	133
5-6	8	32	0	40
>7	0	16	0	16
Other	150	450	43	643
None	105	325	39	469
1-2	34	73	4	111
3-4	7	36	0	43
5-6	3	16	0	19
>7	1	0	0	1
White	7,322	18,224	10	25,556
None	4,858	11,144	7	16,009
1-2	1,822	4,365	2	6,189
3-4	465	1,745	0	2,210
5-6	129	705	1	835
>7	48	265	0	313
Total	8,372	22,421	53	30,846

Table 8-4. Outcome of cases with drugs as most serious filing charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute\*

Most serious filing statute	Charges Dismissed/ Not Guilty	Charges Dismissed (Had Other Cases)	Convicted	Total
Distribution Schedules I to V	346	209	4,588	5,143
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)	26	4	168	198
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(B)	49	12	355	416
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(C)	0	0	2	2
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	50	15	530	595
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	57	48	884	989
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)	108	84	1,655	1,847
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	1	0	40	41
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(B)	1	1	8	10
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	37	38	772	847
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(III)	0	0	5	5
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	2	2	23	27



<sup>\*</sup> Judicial race data does not distinguish between race and ethnicity (particularly "White" and "Hispanic"). As a result, the ability to accurately interpret this data is limited.

Most serious filing statute	Charges Dismissed/ Not Guilty	Charges Dismissed (Had Other Cases)	Convicted	Total
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	3	3	39	45
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	2	0	7	9
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(I)	1	0	9	10
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(II)	0	0	9	9
18-18-422(1)(a)	9	2	82	93
Distribution to Minor	1		23	24
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)	1	0	22	23
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)(B)	0	0	1	1
Drug Paraphernalia	945	380	2,013	3,338
18-18-428(1)	944	379	2,006	3,329
18-18-429	1	1	7	9
Marijuana Cultivation	18	3	91	112
18-18-406(3)(a)	1	2	14	17
18-18-406(3)(a)(1)	2	1	1	4
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	10	0	62	72
18-18-406(3)(a)(II)	1	0	4	5
18-18-406(3)(a)(III)	4	0	5	9
18-18-406(3)(b)	0	0	4	4
18-18-406(3)(c)	0	0	1	1
Marijuana Distribution	117	26	790	933
18-18-406(2)(a)(I)	4	0	32	36
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(A)	14	0	81	95
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	26	1	183	210
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	17	5	183	205
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	4	2	65	71
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(E)	52	18	246	316
Marijuana Distribution to Minor	7	3	23	33
18-18-406(1)(a)	1	1	5	7
18-18-406(1)(b)	0	0	1	1
18-18-406(1)(c)	2	2	3	7
18-18-406(1)(d)	4	0	14	18
Marijuana Other	161	29	296	486
18-18-406(5)(a)(II)	1	0	1	2
18-18-406(5)(b)(I)	119	29	241	389
18-18-406(5)(b)(II)	29	0	44	73
18-18-406(5)(c)	12	0	10	22
Marijuana Possession	880	164	1,450	2,494



Most serious filing statute	Charges Dismissed/ Not Guilty	Charges Dismissed (Had Other Cases)	Convicted	Total
18-18-406(4)(a)	9	3	87	99
18-18-406(4)(a)(I)	12	2	30	44
18-18-406(4)(b)	44	9	116	169
18-18-406(4)(c)	28	6	98	132
18-18-406(5)(a)(I)	783	142	1,117	2,042
18-18-406.5(1)	4	2	2	8
Other	77	59	427	563
18-18-411(1)	1	0	1	2
18-18-411(2)(b)	0	0	1	1
18-18-412	31	30	104	165
18-18-412.5	1	0	17	18
18-18-412.7	0	0	1	1
18-18-413	8	2	10	20
18-18-414(1)(k)	1	0	1	2
18-18-414(1)(n)	1	0	1	2
18-18-414(1)(r)	0	0	1	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	22	22	191	235
18-18-415(1)(c)	2	1	1	4
18-18-415(1)(d)	0	0	5	5
18-18-415(1)(e)	10	4	89	103
18-18-416	0	0	3	3
18-18-422(3)	0	0	1	1
Possession	1,006	1,031	14,262	16,299
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	891	981	13,749	15,621
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)(II)	0	0	1	1
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	115	50	512	677
Special Offender	54	45	841	940
18-18-407(1)(a)	0	0	6	6
18-18-407(1)(b)	0	0	8	8
18-18-407(1)(c)	2	2	30	34
18-18-407(1)(d)(l)	11	9	218	238
18-18-407(1)(d)(II)	34	26	477	537
18-18-407(1)(e)	1	0	4	5
18-18-407(1)(g)	6	8	98	112
Synthetics Distribution	2	2	34	38
18-18-406.2(1)(a)	2	2	31	35
18-18-406.2(1)(b)	0	0	2	2
18-18-406.2(1)(c)	0	0	1	1



	Charges Dismissed/	Charges Dismissed		
Most serious filing statute	Not Guilty	(Had Other Cases)	Convicted	Total
Synthetics Possession	40	10	99	149
18-18-406.1	40	10	99	149
Use	47	34	213	294
18-18-404(1)	47	34	211	292
18-18-404(1)(a)	0	0	1	1
18-18-404(1)(b)	0	0	1	1
Total	3,701	1,995	25,150	30,846

#### \*Filing Outcome Notes:

Charges dismissed/not guilty: all charges were dismissed or found not guilty at trial

**Charges dismissed (had other cases):** all charges were dismissed but other cases were mentioned, possibly indicating a plea agreement to dismiss the case.

**Convicted:** convicted of one or more charges

Table 8-5. Outcomes for cases with drug offense as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute\*

Most serious conviction	Convicted as	Convicted of	<b>Convicted Other</b>	
statute	Charged	Attempt	Drugs	Total
Distribution Schedules I to V	1,167	159	1,812	3,138
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)	31	1	4	36
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(B)	87	3	11	101
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(C)	1	0	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	100	29	142	271
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	190	25	221	436
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)	444	82	710	1,236
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	16	0	2	18
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(B)	4	0	0	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	227	19	287	533
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(III)	4	0	4	8
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	5	0	20	25
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	19	0	259	278
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	4	0	85	89
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(I)	2	0	59	61
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(II)	5	0	5	10
18-18-422(1)(a)	28	0	3	31



Most serious conviction statute	Convicted as Charged	Convicted of Attempt	Convicted Other Drugs	Total
Distribution to Minor	2	0	2	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)	2	0	0	2
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(II)		0	2	2
Drug Paraphernalia	1,655	2	762	2,419
18-18-428(1)	1,654	2	758	2,414
18-18-429	1	0	4	5
Marijuana Cultivation	30	2	60	92
18-18-406(3)(a)	4	0	3	7
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	18	2	34	54
18-18-406(3)(a)(II)	1	0	8	9
18-18-406(3)(a)(III)	3	0	12	15
18-18-406(3)(b)	3	0	1	4
18-18-406(3)(c)	1	0	2	3
Marijuana Distribution	250	2	258	510
18-18-406(2)(a)(I)	7	2	15	24
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(A)	4	0	0	4
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	29	0	29	58
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	48	0	93	141
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	22	0	49	71
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(E)	140	0	72	212
Marijuana Distribution to				
Minor	9	0	24	33
18-18-406(1)(c)	2	0	3	5
18-18-406(1)(d)	7	0	21	28
Marijuana Other	193		48	240
18-18-406(5)(b)(I)	178	0	40	218
18-18-406(5)(b)(II)	8	0	4	12
18-18-406(5)(c)	7	0	3	10
Marijuana Possession	611	2	552	1,165
18-18-406(4)(a)	17	0	104	121
18-18-406(4)(a)(I)	2	0	4	6
18-18-406(4)(b)	46	2	216	264
18-18-406(4)(c)	35	0	94	129
18-18-406(5)(a)(I)	510	0	129	639
18-18-406.5(1)	1	0	5	6
Other	206	9	147	362
18-18-411(1)	1	0	1	2
18-18-411(2)(a)	0	0	1	1



Most serious conviction statute	Convicted as Charged	Convicted of Attempt	Convicted Other Drugs	Total
18-18-411(2)(b)	0	0	1	1
18-18-412	77	0	74	151
18-18-412.5	4	2	1	7
18-18-412.7	1	0	1	2
18-18-413	3	0	15	18
18-18-414(1)(e)	0	0	3	3
18-18-414(1)(m)	0	0	1	1
18-18-414(1)(n)	0	0	1	1
18-18-414(1)(o)	0	0	1	1
18-18-414(1)(r)	1	0	0	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	86	4	29	119
18-18-415(1)(c)	1	0	2	3
18-18-415(1)(d)	3	0	0	3
18-18-415(1)(e)	28	3	11	42
18-18-416	1	0	0	1
18-18-422(3)	0	0	4	4
18-18-423(2)	0	0	1	1
Possession Schedule I to V	4,753	74	11,212	16,039
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	4,540	56	2,726	7,322
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)(II)	0	1	1	2
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	213	17	8,485	8,715
Special Offender	25	0	4	29
18-18-407(1)(d)(I)	8	0	1	9
18-18-407(1)(d)(II)	15	0	2	17
18-18-407(1)(e)	0	0	1	1
18-18-407(1)(g)	2	0	0	2
Synthetics Distribution	12	2	11	25
18-18-406.2(1)(a)	10	2	7	19
18-18-406.2(1)(b)	1	0	4	5
18-18-406.2(1)(c)	1	0	0	1
Synthetics Distribution to Minor	0	0	1	1
18-18-406.2(1)(a),(3)	0	0	1	1
Synthetics Possession	37	0	52	89
18-18-406.1	37	0	52	89
Use	121	0	993	1,114
18-18-404(1)	121	0	992	1,113
18-18-404(1)(a)	0	0	1	1



Most serious conviction	Convicted as	Convicted of	Convicted Other	
statute	Charged	Attempt	Drugs	Total
Total	9,071	252	15,937	25,260

#### \*Conviction Outcome Notes

Cases may not have had drugs as the most serious filing charge

**Convicted as charged:** conviction charge was the most serious filing charge **Convicted of attempt:** convicted of attempt of the most serious filing charge

Convicted other drugs: convicted of drug offense that was not the most serious filed drug charge

Table 8-6. Initial sentence for cases with drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute\*

Table 8-6. Initial sentence for cas	Com	l ugo uo most s	erious <u>co</u>	Diver-	narge po	J. J.D.13	230, 64	Statute			
Conviction Statute	Cor	Deferred	DOC	sion	DYC	Jail	JVDT	Other	PROB	YOS	Total
Distribution	332	215	1,099	18	8	24	1	13	1,254		2,964
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)	1	0	30	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	33
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(B)	0	1	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	25	22	130	0	0	0	0	2	81	0	260
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	56	13	257	1	3	1	0	0	75	0	406
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)	159	102	341	10	1	3	0	5	552	0	1,173
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	2	4	4	0		0	0	0	8	0	18
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(B)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	71	36	172	0	3	0	0	2	215	0	499
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(III)	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	8
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	4	4	5	1	0	0	0	1	10	0	25
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	9	13	55	2	0	6	1	1	172	0	259
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	3	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	76	0	88
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(I)	0	4	0	0	0	11	0	1	43	0	59
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(II)	0	5	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	10
18-18-422(1)(a)	0	6	8	1	1	0	0	0	13	0	29
Distribution to Minor	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(II)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Drug Paraphernalia	0	187	0	38	0	62	0	1,960	97	0	2,344
18-18-428(1)	0	187	0	38	0	62	0	1,956	96	0	2,339
18-18-429	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
Marijuana Cultivation	1	39	2	2	1	1	0	5	33	0	84
18-18-406(3)(a)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	6



Conviction Statute	Com Cor	Deferred	DOC	Diver- sion	DYC	Jail	JVDT	Other	PROB	YOS	Total
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	0	25	2	1	0	0	0	0	20	0	48
18-18-406(3)(a)(II)	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
18-18-406(3)(a)(III)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0	15
18-18-406(3)(b)	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
18-18-406(3)(c)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Marijuana Distribution	12	169	25	13	6	12	1	12	233		483
18-18-406(2)(a)(I)	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	22
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(A)	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	0	17	7	1	0	0	0	0	24	0	49
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	10	47	11	0	0	0	0	1	69	0	138
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	2	16	5	2	2	0	0	0	38	0	65
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(E)	0	75	0	10	4	12	1	10	93	0	205
Marijuana Distribution to Minor	0	10	4	3	0	0	0	1	15	0	33
18-18-406(1)(c)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
18-18-406(1)(d)	0	10	2	3	0	0	0	1	12	0	28
Marijuana Other	0	27	0	4	0	6	0	191	7		235
18-18-406(5)(b)(I)	0	21	0	4	0	4	0	179	6	0	214
18-18-406(5)(b)(II)	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	7	1	0	12
18-18-406(5)(c)	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	9
Marijuana Possession	1	199	3	50	1	45	3	406	377	0	1,085
18-18-406(4)(a)	0	16	2	0	0	2	0	1	96	0	117
18-18-406(4)(a)(I)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	6
18-18-406(4)(b)	1	19	1	8	0	25	1	35	167	0	257
18-18-406(4)(c)	0	23	0	2	0	11	0	33	59	0	128
18-18-406(5)(a)(I)	0	141	0	40	1	3	2	333	51	0	571
18-18-406.5(1)	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	6
Other	3	61	19	8	1	27	0	46	182		347
18-18-411(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
18-18-411(2)(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
18-18-412	0	4	0	3	1	20	0	32	83	0	143
18-18-412.5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
18-18-412.7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
18-18-413	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	13	2	0	17
18-18-414(1)(e)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
18-18-414(1)(m)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
18-18-414(1)(n)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
18-18-414(1)(o)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1



Conviction Statute	Com Cor	Deferred	DOC	Diver- sion	DYC	Jail	JVDT	Other	PROB	YOS	Total
18-18-414(1)(r)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	2	42	7	3	0	0	0	0	63	0	117
18-18-415(1)(c)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
18-18-415(1)(d)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
18-18-415(1)(e)	1	11	6	2	0	2	0	0	18	0	40
18-18-416	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
18-18-422(3)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	4
18-18-423(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Possession Schedule						1,34					
I to V	547	1,168	976	99	30	6	4	303	10,983	1	15,457
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	526	975	966	85	19	50	0	28	4,372	1	7,022
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)(II)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	20	193	10	14	11	1,29 6	4	275	6,610		8,433
Special Offender	0	0	10 10	14	0		•	1	1	0	8,433
•	_	0	_		0	0	0	0	0	-	
18-18-407(1)(d)(l)	0		3	0		0	0			0	3
18-18-407(1)(d)(II)	0	0	7	1	0	-		1	1	0	10
Synthetics Distribution	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	2	10	0	23
18-18-406.2(1)(a)	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	17
18-18-406.2(1)(b)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
18-18-406.2(1)(c)  Synthetics Distribution to	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Minor	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
18-18-406.2(1)(a),(3)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Synthetics Possession	0	9	0	3	1	28	0	15	31	0	87
18-18-406.1	0	9	0	3	1	28	0	15	31	0	87
Use	0	101	2	6	1	229	0	79	665	0	1,083
18-18-404(1)	0	101	1	6	1	229	0	79	665	0	1,082
18-18-404(1)(a)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	897	2,195	2,143	245	49	1,78 0	9	3,034	13,889	1	24,242

## \*Sentencing Notes

There were 1,019 convicted cases with no sentence found.

ComCor: Community Corrections
Deferred: Deferred Judgment
DOC: Department of Corrections
Diversion: Post-filing Diversion



**DYC:** Division of Youth Corrections

Jail: Jail or work release
JVDT: Juvenile Detention

Other: Fines, community service, time served

PROB: Supervised or unsupervised probation, electronic surveillance

YOS: Youthful Offender System

Table 8-7. Cases with <u>DOC sentence</u> and drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250 by statute and trial held

Statute		Completed	
Statute	No Trial	Trial	Total
Distribution	1,072	27	1,099
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)	30	0	30
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(B)	82	9	91
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	126	4	130
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	253	4	257
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)	334	7	341
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	4	0	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	170	2	172
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(III)	3	0	3
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	5	0	5
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	55	0	55
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	2	1	3
18-18-422(1)(a)	8	0	8
Distribution to Minor	2	0	2
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)	1	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(II)	1	0	1
Marijuana Cultivation	2	0	2
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	2	0	2
Marijuana Distribution	24	1	25
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(A)	1	1	2
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	7	0	7
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	11	0	11
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	5	0	5
Marijuana Distribution to Minor	4	0	4
18-18-406(1)(c)	2	0	2
18-18-406(1)(d)	2	0	2
Marijuana Possession	3	0	3
18-18-406(4)(a)	2	0	2
18-18-406(4)(b)	1	0	1
Other	19	0	19



Statute	No Trial	Completed Trial	Total
18-18-412.5	4	0	4
18-18-412.7	1	0	1
18-18-414(1)(o)	1	0	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	7	0	7
18-18-415(1)(e)	6	0	6
Possession Schedule I to V	965	11	976
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	955	11	966
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	10	0	10
Special Offender	10	0	10
18-18-407(1)(d)(I)	3	0	3
18-18-407(1)(d)(II)	7	0	7
Synthetics Distribution	1	0	1
18-18-406.2(1)(b)	1	0	1
Use	2	0	2
18-18-404(1)	1	0	1
18-18-404(1)(a)	1	0	1
Total	2,104	39	2,143

Table 8-8. Sentences to DOC for cases with drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by concurrent cases and statute\*

	No	Had	
Most serious conviction statute	concurrent	concurrent cases	Total
Distribution	599	500	1,099
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)	24	6	30
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(B)	66	25	91
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	81	49	130
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	137	120	257
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(l)	174	167	341
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	3	1	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	77	95	172
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(III)	1	2	3
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	1	4	5
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	33	22	55
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)		3	3
18-18-422(1)(a)	2	6	8



	No concurrent	Had concurrent	
Most serious conviction statute	cases	cases	Total
Distribution to Minor	2	0	2
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)	1	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(II)	1	0	1
Marijuana Cultivation	2	0	2
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	2	0	2
Marijuana Distribution	21	4	25
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(A)	2	0	2
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	7	0	7
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	10	1	11
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	2	3	5
Marijuana Distribution to Minor	4		4
18-18-406(1)(c)	2	0	2
18-18-406(1)(d)	2	0	2
Marijuana Possession	1	2	3
18-18-406(4)(a)	1	1	2
18-18-406(4)(b)	0	1	1
Other	4	15	19
18-18-412.5	0	4	4
18-18-412.7	1	0	1
18-18-414(1)(o)	1	0	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	2	5	7
18-18-415(1)(e)	0	6	6
Possession Schedule I to V	344	632	976
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	342	624	966
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	2	8	10
Special Offender	1	9	10
18-18-407(1)(d)(I)	0	3	3
18-18-407(1)(d)(II)	1	6	7
Synthetics Distribution	1	0	1
18-18-406.2(1)(b)	1	0	1
Use	2	0	2
18-18-404(1)	1	0	1
18-18-404(1)(a)	1	0	1
Total	981	1,162	2,143



#### \*Sentences to DOC Notes

"Concurrent cases" were cases mentioned in the minute orders. Docket numbers, which conform to a specific pattern, were used to identify concurrent cases. Docket numbers may have been missed if they were entered using a non-standard notation.

Table 8-9. Probation and deferred judgment revocations for cases with drugs as most serious conviction charge post-S.B.13-250, by statute\*

Most serious conviction statute	Not revoked	Revoked	Total
Distribution	1,099	370	1,469
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)	1	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(B)	1	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	86	17	103
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	71	17	88
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)	494	160	654
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	3	9	12
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(B)	4	0	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	189	62	251
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(III)	1	2	3
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	11	3	14
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	123	62	185
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	66	14	80
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(I)	34	13	47
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(II)	6	1	7
18-18-422(1)(a)	9	10	19
Distribution to Minor	0	1	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(II)	0	1	1
Drug Paraphernalia	227	57	284
18-18-428(1)	226	57	283
18-18-429	1	0	1
Marijuana Cultivation	69	3	72
18-18-406(3)(a)	3	0	3
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	44	1	45
18-18-406(3)(a)(II)	6	1	7
18-18-406(3)(a)(III)	12	1	13
18-18-406(3)(b)	2	0	2
18-18-406(3)(c)	2	0	2
Marijuana Distribution	340	62	402
18-18-406(2)(a)(I)	19	2	21
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(A)	2	0	2
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	38	3	41
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	104	12	116



Most serious conviction statute	Not revoked	Revoked	Total
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	46	8	54
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(E)	131	37	168
Marijuana Distribution to Minor	18	7	25
18-18-406(1)(c)	1	2	3
18-18-406(1)(d)	17	5	22
Marijuana Other	29	5	34
18-18-406(5)(b)(I)	24	3	27
18-18-406(5)(b)(II)	3	1	4
18-18-406(5)(c)	2	1	3
Marijuana Possession	463	113	576
18-18-406(4)(a)	91	21	112
18-18-406(4)(a)(I)	3	1	4
18-18-406(4)(b)	145	41	186
18-18-406(4)(c)	66	16	82
18-18-406(5)(a)(I)	158	34	192
Other	188	55	243
18-18-411(1)	2	0	2
18-18-411(2)(a)	1	0	1
18-18-412	67	20	87
18-18-412.5	1	1	2
18-18-412.7	1	0	1
18-18-413	1	1	2
18-18-414(1)(e)	2	0	2
18-18-414(1)(r)	1	0	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	86	19	105
18-18-415(1)(c)	2	1	3
18-18-415(1)(d)	3	0	3
18-18-415(1)(e)	18	11	29
18-18-416	0	1	1
18-18-422(3)	2	1	3
18-18-423(2)	1	0	1
Possession Schedule I to V	7,652	4,499	12,151
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	3,342	2,005	5,347
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)(II)	1	0	1
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	4,309	2,494	6,803
Special Offender	1	0	1
18-18-407(1)(d)(II)	1	0	1
Synthetics Distribution	17	2	19
18-18-406.2(1)(a)	12	2	14



Most serious conviction statute	Not revoked	Revoked	Total
18-18-406.2(1)(b)	4	0	4
18-18-406.2(1)(c)	1	0	1
Synthetics Distribution to Minor	1	0	1
18-18-406.2(1)(a),(3)	1	0	1
Synthetics Possession	30	10	40
18-18-406.1	30	10	40
Use	521	245	766
18-18-404(1)	521	245	766
Total	10,655	5,429	16,084

#### **Revocation Notes**

Revocations include revocation followed by reinstatement, revocations to DOC, or revocation with jail or other sentences.

Table 8-10. Revocation outcomes for cases with drugs as most serious conviction and revoked from probation or deferred judgment post-S.B.13-250, by statute\*

Most serious conviction							
statute	ComCor	DOC	Jail	Other	Reinstated	Unknown	Total
Distribution	47	65	19	32	198	9	370
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	3	5	1	2	4	2	17
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	1	6	0	3	7	0	17
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)	28	29	3	15	82	3	160
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	1	2	1	1	3	1	9
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	6	11	5	6	33	1	62
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(III)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	8	11	5	3	35	0	62
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	0	0	1	0	12	1	14
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(I)	0	0	3	0	9	1	13
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(II)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
18-18-422(1)(a)	0	1	0	2	7	0	10
Distribution to Minor	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(II)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1



Most serious conviction							
statute	ComCor	DOC	Jail	Other	Reinstated	Unknown	Total
Drug Paraphernalia	0	0	5	21	11	20	57
18-18-428(1)	0	0	5	21	11	20	57
Marijuana Cultivation	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
18-18-406(3)(a)(II)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
18-18-406(3)(a)(III)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Marijuana Distribution	3	1	13	14	24	7	62
18-18-406(2)(a)(I)	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	1	0	1	3	5	2	12
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	1	1	1	3	2	0	8
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(E)	0	0	9	8	16	4	37
Marijuana Distribution to							
Minor	0	2	0	1	4	0	7
18-18-406(1)(c)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
18-18-406(1)(d)	0	2		1	2	0	5
Marijuana Other			1	1	2	1	5
18-18-406(5)(b)(I)	0	0	1		2	0	3
18-18-406(5)(b)(II)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
18-18-406(5)(c)	0	0		1	0	0	1
Marijuana Possession	2	4	11	26	60	10	113
18-18-406(4)(a)	2	4		3	11	1	21
18-18-406(4)(a)(I)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
18-18-406(4)(b)	0	0	4	4	31	2	41
18-18-406(4)(c)	0	0	2	4	8	2	16
18-18-406(5)(a)(I)	0	0	4	15	10	5	34
Other	6	2	5	7	28	7	55
18-18-412	0	0	3	1	9	7	20
18-18-412.5	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
18-18-413	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	3		1	3	12	0	19
18-18-415(1)(c)	1	0		0	0	0	1
18-18-415(1)(e)	2	1	0	2	6	0	11
18-18-416	0	1	0		0	0	1
18-18-422(3)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Possession Schedule I to V	298	230	569	155	2,940	307	4,499
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	288	229	104	131	1,172	81	2,005
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	10	1	465	24	1,768	226	2,494



Most serious conviction							
statute	ComCor	DOC	Jail	Other	Reinstated	Unknown	Total
Synthetics Distribution	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
18-18-406.2(1)(a)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Synthetics Possession	0	0	1	1	7	1	10
18-18-406.1	0	0	1	1	7	1	10
Use	0	0	63	15	136	31	245
18-18-404(1)	0	0	63	15	136	31	245
Total	357	304	687	274	3,413	394	5,429

#### \*Revocation Outcome Notes

**ComCor:** Community Corrections **DOC:** Department of Corrections

Jail: Jail or work release

Other: Community service, fines. Also includes Probation, for example when a Deferred Judgment was

revoked and a Probation sentence imposed.

Reinstated: Probation continued or Deferred Judgment continued

**Unknown:** Indicates that no sentence followed the revoked sentence. Therefore it was unknown what the

outcome was.

Table 8-11. Deferred judgment outcomes for cases with drugs as most serious conviction post-S.B.13-250, by statute\*

Most serious conviction statute	Successful	Not successful	Total
Distribution	34	181	215
18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(B)	1	0	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(A)	2	20	22
18-18-405(1),(2)(b)(I)(B)	2	11	13
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)	14	88	102
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(A)	1	3	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(I)(B)	0	1	1
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(II)	2	34	36
18-18-405(1),(2)(c)(IV)	1	3	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	3	10	13
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	1	3	4
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(I)	2	2	4



		Not	
Most serious conviction statute	Successful	successful	Total
18-18-405(1),(2)(e)(II)	2	3	5
18-18-422(1)(a)	3	3	6
Drug Paraphernalia	112	76	188
18-18-428(1)	112	76	188
Marijuana Cultivation	4	35	39
18-18-406(3)(a)	0	1	1
18-18-406(3)(a)(I)	3	22	25
18-18-406(3)(a)(II)	0	6	6
18-18-406(3)(a)(III)	0	4	4
18-18-406(3)(b)	1	1	2
18-18-406(3)(c)	0	1	1
Marijuana Distribution	48	121	169
18-18-406(2)(a)(I)	1	11	12
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(A)	0	2	2
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(B)	3	14	17
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(C)	7	40	47
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	4	12	16
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(E)	33	42	75
Marijuana Distribution to Minor	1	9	10
18-18-406(1)(d)	1	9	10
Marijuana Other	13	14	27
18-18-406(5)(b)(I)	9	12	21
18-18-406(5)(b)(II)	2	1	3
18-18-406(5)(c)	2	1	3
Marijuana Possession	106	93	199
18-18-406(4)(a)	3	13	16
18-18-406(4)(b)	5	14	19
18-18-406(4)(c)	7	16	23
18-18-406(5)(a)(I)	91	50	141
Other	14	47	61
18-18-412	3	1	4
18-18-412.7	0	1	1
18-18-414(1)(r)	1	0	1
18-18-415(1)(a)	6	36	42
18-18-415(1)(d)	0	2	2
18-18-415(1)(e)	4	7	11
Possession	146	1,022	1,168
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)	103	872	975



		Not	
Most serious conviction statute	Successful	successful	Total
18-18-403.5(1),(2)(c)	43	150	193
Synthetics Distribution	5	4	9
18-18-406.2(1)(a)	4	3	7
18-18-406.2(1)(b)	1	0	1
18-18-406.2(1)(c)	0	1	1
Synthetics Distribution to Minor	0	1	1
18-18-406.2(1)(a),(3)	0	1	1
Synthetics Possession	2	7	9
18-18-406.1	2	7	9
Use	31	70	101
18-18-404(1)	31	70	101
Total	516	1,679	2,195

## \*Deferred Judgment Notes

Probation outcomes are not recorded in ICON and are therefore not reported.

The category "Not successful" includes those who were revoked and were reinstated and therefore may be successful at a later date.



### Appendix A - Summary of S.B.13-250

**Section 1.** The bill creates a sentencing option for offenders convicted of certain drug felonies that allows the court to vacate the felony conviction and enter a misdemeanor conviction in its place if the offender successfully completes a community-based sentence.

**Section 2.** For level 4 drug felonies, the bill creates an exhaustion of remedies requirement prior to the court sentencing the defendant to prison.

**Section 3.** If an offender who is convicted of a level 4 drug felony is terminated from a community corrections sentence, the court shall hold a resentencing hearing or make written findings regarding the sentence.

**Sections 4 and 5.** The bill creates new felony and misdemeanor drug sentencing grids.

Sections 6 and 7. The bill amends the drug sentencing article short title and legislative declaration.

**Sections 8 through 31.** The bill assigns each of the drug crimes a new drug penalty based on the new felony and misdemeanor drug sentencing grids.

**Section 32.** The bill prohibits a plea agreement that requires the defendant to waive his or her right to petition to have the conviction record sealed.

**Section 33.** When a defendant is sentenced to probation for a drug misdemeanor, the court may impose residential drug treatment as a condition of probation.

**Section 34.** Residential drug treatment at a community corrections program not subject to the escape statute.

**Section 35.** The bill amends the intensive supervision probation program to allow defendants convicted of a misdemeanor to participate if they are assessed as higher risk.

**Section 36.** The bill adds all drug felonies to the habitual sentencing schemes.

**Sections 37 through 56.** The bill makes conforming amendments.

**Section 57 and 63.** Under current law, drug offenders convicted after July 1, 2011, have the opportunity to have their conviction sealed. The bill conforms those provisions to the new drug offense classifications.

**Section 58.** The bill requires the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety to collect data on drug cases and issue a report by December 31, 2016.

**Sections 59 through 62.** The bill makes conforming amendments.

**Section 64.** Allows the court to reinstate Deferred Judgment upon failure.

**Sections 65 through 68.** The bill makes conforming amendments.



Section 69. The bill authorizes the statewide organization representing district attorneys the ability to receive, manage, and expend state funds in the manner prescribed by the general assembly on behalf of the district attorneys who are members of the organization.



## **Appendix B - Sentence Categories**

Community Corrections
Deferred Judgment
Deferred Adjudication
Deferred Prosecution
Deferred Sentence
Dept of Corrections
Diversion
Division of Youth Corrections
Jail
Jail
Work Release
Juvenile Detention
Other
Community Service
Credit for Time Served
Fines
Probation
Electronic Surveillance
Intensive Supervision
Juvenile Intensive Supervision
Probation
Sex Offender Intensive Supervision
Unsupervised Probation
Youthful Offender System



## **Appendix C - Wobbler-Comparable Statutes (DF4)**

	Matching Pre-S.B.13-250	Exact		Prior
Post-S.B.13-250	Statute	Match	Description	Class
Possession of any quantity				
Schedule I or II		No*		
18-81-403.5(1),(2)(a)	18-18-403.5(1),(2)(a)(I)		Possession < 4gm	F6
	18-18-403.5(1),(2)(b)(l)		Possession meth < 2gm	F6
Distribution of <4gm Schedule I				
or II with contemporaneous				
consumption		No		
			Distribution of schedule	
			I or II	
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)		<25gm	F3
Marijuana Possession > 12oz		Yes		
18-18-406(4)(a)	18-18-406(4)(c)		Possession > 12 oz	F6
Fraud and Deceit		Yes		
			Obtain controlled	
			substance by fraud or	
18-18-415 (AII)	18-18-415 (All)		deceit	F6

<sup>\*</sup>The wobbler provision limits possession to 4gm Schedule I or II drug and Flunitrazepam or <2gm Methamphetamine, Heroin, Ketamine, or Cathinone.



# **Appendix D - DF4-comparable statutes**

	Matching Pre-S.B.13-250	Exact		Prior
Post-S.B.13-250	Statute	Match	Description	Class
Possession of any quantity		Yes		
Schedule I or II				
18-81-403.5(1),(2)(a)	18-18-403.5(1)(2)(a)(I)		Possession < 4gm	F6
	18-18-403.5(1)(2)(b)(I)		Possession meth < 2gm	F6
	18-18-403.5(1)(2)(a)(II)		Possession > 4gm	F4
	18-18-403.5(1)(2)(b)(II)		Possession meth > 2gm	F4
Distribution < 4gm Schedule III				
or IV		No		
			Distribution any	
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(I)	18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)(A)		Schedule III	F4
			Distribution any	
	18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(II)(B)		Schedule III with priors	F3
			Distribution any	
	18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(III)(A)		Schedule IV	F5
			Distribution any	
	18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(III)(B)		Schedule IV with priors	F4
Distribution of <4gm Schedule I				
or II with contemporaneous				
consumption		No		
			Distribution of schedule I	
18-18-405(1),(2)(d)(II)	18-18-405(1),(2)(a)(I)(A)		or II < 25gm	F3
Marijuana Possession > 12oz		Yes		
18-18-406(4)(a)	18-18-406(4)(c)		Possession > 12oz	F6
Marijuana Distribution >4oz				
<12oz		No		
18-18-406(2)(b)(I),(III)(D)	18-18-406(6)(b)(I),(III)(A)		Distribution < 5lbs	F5
Marijuana Cultivation		Yes		
7 to 30 plants	40.40.406/7.5\/\\		0 10 11 7 20 1	
18-18-406(3)(a)(II)	18-18-406(7.5)(b)		Cultivation 7 to 30 plants	F5
Marijuana Distribution < 1oz to				
minor	No. of the second second	No		
18-18-406(1)(d)	No comparable statute			
Fraud and Deceit		Yes		
			Obtain controlled	
10 10 445 (AU)	10 10 445 (AU)		substance by fraud or	FC
18-18-415 (AII)	18-18-415 (All)		deceit	F6



	Matching Pre-S.B.13-250	Exact		Prior
Post-S.B.13-250	Statute	Match	Description	Class
Imitation Controlled				
Substances (manufacture,				
distribute or possess with				
intent to distribute)		Yes		
			Manufacture, distribute	
			or possess with intent to	
18-18-422(1)(a)	18-18-422(1)(a)		distribute	F5
			Manufacture, distribute	
			or possess with intent to	
			distribute with	
	18-18-422(1)(a),(b)(II)		subsequent conviction	F4



## Appendix E - DCJ Reporting Requirement

- **18-18-606. Drug case data collection.** (1) The division of Criminal Justice in the department of Public Safety shall collect the data specified in Subsection (2) of this section for the period between October 1, 2013, and September 30, 2016, and issue a report by December 31, 2016, on the impact of Senate Bill 13-250, enacted in 2013.
- (2) THE DATA MUST INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:
  - (a) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUG CASES DIVERTED FROM PROSECUTION PRIOR TO FILING THROUGH REFERRAL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR DISTRICT ATTORNEY DIVERSION PROGRAMS:
  - (b) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUG CASES FILED STATEWIDE BY JURISDICTION;
  - (c) ALL DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE DEFENDANTS FOR WHICH A DRUG CASE HAS BEEN FILED OR DIVERTED INCLUDING PRIOR CRIMINAL HISTORY; AND
  - (d) FOR ALL CASES FILED, THE NATURE OF THE CHARGES BY STATUTORY CITATION AND T 1 HE OUTCOME OR DISPOSITION INFORMATION ON ALL THE CASES FILED WHICH SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:
    - (I) DISMISSAL WITHOUT PROSECUTION;
    - (II) DISMISSAL AS A RESULT OF A PLEA BARGAIN;
    - (III) DEFERRED JUDGMENT TO THE ORIGINAL CHARGE OR A LESSER CHARGE;
    - (IV) ANY PLEA BARGAIN THAT REDUCES THE ORIGINAL CHARGE OR CHARGES FILED;
    - (V) ANY SENTENCE BARGAIN INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A STIPULATION TO A CERTAIN SENTENCE OR A LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF JAIL OR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IMPOSED;
    - (VI) ANY PLEA BARGAIN THAT INVOLVES MULTIPLE CASES;
    - (VII) ANY SENTENCE BARGAIN THAT INVOLVES CONCURRENT OR CONSECUTIVE TIME IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS;
    - (VIII) ANY PROBATION OR DEFERRED JUDGMENT REVOCATION FILED AND THE RESULT OF ANY REVOCATION:
    - (IX) ANY SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROBATION OR A DEFERRED JUDGMENT; AND
    - (X) Any successful completion of supervision resulting in conversion of the felony to a misdemeanor pursuant to the provisions of 18-1.3-103.5 (2).

