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## DIGEST

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HB 463 Original

2016 Regular Session

Billiot

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the eligibility requirements for the Veterans Court program.

Present law excludes a defendant from participating in the Veterans Court program if the defendant's crime being considered before the court is a crime of violence as defined in present law or if the defendant has a prior felony offense or other pending criminal proceedings alleging commission of a crime of violence.

Proposed law expands participation in the Veterans Court program by excluding only those defendants whose crime before the court is a homicide, a sex offense requiring registration, or a crime of violence unless the entire sentence may be deferred or suspended.

Proposed law further excludes participation in the program if the defendant has prior felony convictions for any offenses defined as a homicide in present law or other pending criminal proceedings alleging commission of a homicide or sex offense.

Proposed law adds that a defendant may still be eligible for the Veterans Court program even if the defendant would not otherwise be eligible for probation due to his criminal history.

(Amends R.S. 13:5366(B)(9)(a) and (b))