

S.F. No. 1478 – Felony Murder

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Date: March 2, 2023

Section 1 provides that a person is not liable for aiding and abetting another person who committed felony murder under: (1) the first-degree felony murder crime (intentionally causing the death of another while committing certain specified felonies) unless the person intentionally aided and abetted the other person with intent to cause a death; or (2) the second-degree felony murder crime (unintentionally causing the death of another while committing a felony offense) unless the person was a major participant in the underlying felony and acted with extreme indifference to human life.

Section 2 provides a process for persons described in section 1 who are under the custody of the commissioner of corrections or under court supervision to petition to have their conviction vacated. Requires a person seeking relief to submit a preliminary application to the Ramsey County District Court by October 1, 2024. Following a preliminary determination by the court that there is a reasonable probability that the person is entitled to relief, the person may petition to have the conviction vacated. If the court vacates the conviction, it must either resentence the person for any other offense for which the person was convicted or enter a conviction and impose a sentence for any other predicate felony arising out of the conviction being vacated. Any new sentence may not be harsher than the original and the person is entitled to credit for time served for the vacated conviction.

Sections 3 and 4 revive the task force on aiding and abetting felony murder, broaden its task, require a new report, and appropriate an unspecified amount of money to accomplish this.