

NEW LAW: AB 321 (SCHULTZ)

“THE BETTER INFORMED DECISIONS ACT” (BID ACT)

FELONY WOBBLER CASE TIMELINE BEFORE AB 321:

Before trial, a judge could only decide whether a wobbler should move forward as a felony or misdemeanor **at or before the preliminary hearing-- a very early stage in the case timeline.**

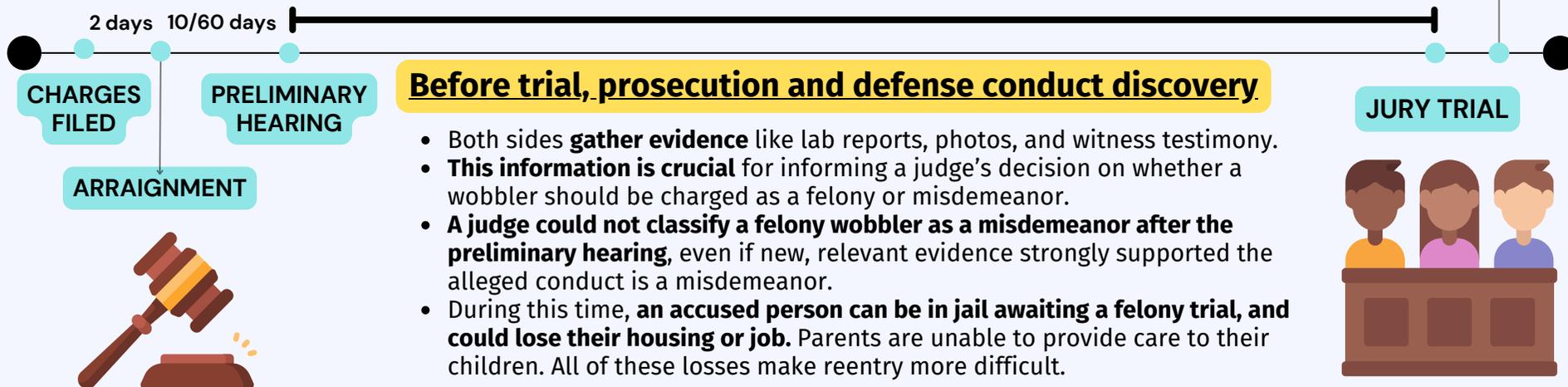


A person can wait months to years to begin a felony trial after the preliminary hearing



SENTENCING

- This was the only other opportunity for a judge to **modify a felony wobbler to a misdemeanor**
- At this point, extensive court resources had already been used to litigate a felony trial



REFORMS UNDER AB 321 (SCHULTZ) “THE BID ACT” EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2026:

- Removes the arbitrary deadline “at or before the preliminary hearing” to classify wobblers, **permitting judges to classify wobblers any time before trial.**
- Leads to more **accurate, fair, and equitable criminal justice outcomes.** Judges have **time to make better informed decisions** as relevant evidence and information are discovered and presented to the court.
- Improves court efficiency and **saves public funds.**

