



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF JJPOC BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE AND SENATE

Substitute Bill# 7389, AN ACT CONCERNING CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE CASE OF A DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER OF A JUVENILE'S CASE TO THE REGULAR CRIMINAL DOCKET AND IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

- Authorizes the JJPOC to conduct a study on how other states house their “transferred” youth; to develop organizational and programmatic alternatives to Connecticut’s current structure; to examine the outcomes associated with the transfer of juvenile cases to the adult docket including the impact on public safety and on the effectiveness in changing juvenile’s behavior; the study and a plan for its implementation must be complete by January 2020 and be submitted to relevant committees of the Legislature.
- Requires the adoption of best practices and policies by the Judicial Branch and the Department of Corrections, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, in all public and private juvenile correctional facilities. The policy and practice areas include suicidal and self-harming behaviors, the use of solitary confinement, the use of chemical agents, and the use of prone restraints of juveniles. These practices were recommended in a report issued in January of 2019 by the Office of the Child Advocate.
- Requires, by July 1, 2021, the adoption of policies that promote developmentally healthy and appropriate activities and recreational opportunities for the detained juveniles and their families during visitation periods to strengthen family bonds and minimize separation trauma; Visits must be contact visits unless such a visit creates risk of harm to anyone.
- Requires the use of behavioral intervention plans for children whose behavior interferes with the safety of others and trauma-responsive rehabilitative, pro-social and clinical services in their schedules.



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- Requires regular reports, beginning in August of 2020, to the JJPOC on all instances where chemical agents and prone restraints are used in juvenile correctional facilities under the auspices of the Judicial Branch and the Department of Corrections; the bill “limits” the use of both.
- Requires annual reports to the JJPOC from the Judicial Branch and the Department of Correction on all instances of suicidal and self-harming behaviors; the uses of force against, and imposing physical isolation on detainees; and on all identified educational and mental health concerns.
- Requires full compliance with the National Prison Rate Elimination Act (PREA) which provides for the prevention, detection, monitoring and response to sexual abuse in all adult prisons and jails, and juvenile facilities. The head of any state or local agency in which a juvenile may be detained must certify to OPM’s Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division by January 15 of each year its compliance with the provisions of PREA.
- Enhances the protection of juveniles from potential abuse and neglect in custodial settings by making all staff who work in such settings “mandated” reporters for any abuse of neglect in such settings.
- Requires “independent ombudsperson services” in all facilities where juveniles are incarcerated in order to ensure that complaints from juveniles are fairly investigated, resolved, and brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities; Ombudspersons will also be “mandated” reporters;
- Removes the remaining categories (runaways and out of control of parents) of status offenses from referral to the juvenile courts effective July 1, 2020. In August of 2017, the largest of status offenders, truant, was removed from court referral.