The Juvenile Justice Bill

Bill S.2424 An Act promoting transparency, best practices, and better outcomes for children and communities





- This omnibus bill encourages rehabilitation and positive future outcomes for youth, reduces recidivism, and ensures fair treatment of children.
- The bill excludes very young children from delinquency proceedings by raising the lower limit of juvenile court jurisdiction from 7 to 11 years of age, while also ensuring they have access to services from the Department of Youth Services.
- The bill creates a task force to make recommendations on ways to coordinate and modernize the data systems used to collect and report juvenile caseload and outcome data.

The omnibus bill was sponsored by Senator Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland)



Senator Karen E. Spilka @KarenSpilka

Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means



Senator Cynthia S. Creem @cindycreem

Assistant Majority Leader Chair, Senate Committee on Ethics

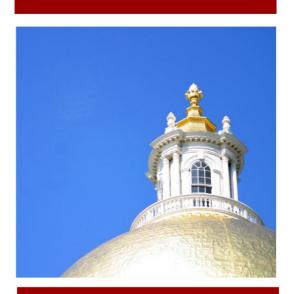


This Legislation was passed on **July 8, 2016**



Bill Passed Yeas 31 to Nays 9

STATUS



Sent to House

In 2013, only 40 children under the age of 11 were arraigned statewide, most for fighting or destruction of property. Children ages 7 to 10 are typically elementary school students and highly unlikely to be competent to stand trial. If necessary, very young children will be subject to Juvenile Court through Care and Protection or Child Requiring Assistance proceedings.

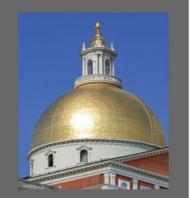
RESPONSE

The Washington Times

"The Massachusetts Senate has passed a bill designed to improve the states juvenile justice system. Supporters of the bill approved Tuesday say it will help encourage rehabilitation, reduce recidivism by youthful offenders and ensure the fair treatment of children."

- Washington Times, Associated Press

"I strongly believe that this legislation will strengthen our juvenile justice system and better address the risks and needs of justice-involved youth in the Commonwealth. Young people possess a high capacity for positive change, and the carefully crafted provisions of this bill balance our obligation to assist in their rehabilitation with our duty to protect public safety."



- Senator Cynthia S. Creem

INFOGRAPHICS

