

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H2055

TITLE: An Act relative to pre-adjudication credit for juvenile offenders.

SPONSOR: Rep. Christopher J. Worrell

COSPONSOR(S): Rep. Kevin G. Honan

HEARING DATE: June 10, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: None

SENATE BILL: S1242 (Payano)

CURRENT LAW: Section 58 of Chapter 119 of the General Laws establishes the procedures for criminal complaints against children or youthful offenders, the procedures for adjudicating a child as delinquent and the factors to consider when sentencing children or youthful offenders. It further establishes the types of sentences available to convicted youthful offenders, including a process in which the court can undertake an assessment of the offender based on public safety and sentence them on that basis to a juvenile prison separate from the general population.

Section 68 of Chapter 119 establishes the rules and procedures for committing a child to the care of the department of youth services or to a probation officer, a parent, guardian, or other responsible person when the child is awaiting further examination, trial or continuance.

Section 5 of Chapter 120 requires the department of youth services to examine and study every child under their care and to investigate all pertinent circumstances of their lives and behavior.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1a – Adds to Section 58 of Chapter 119 the period of time the youthful offender spent in a secure detention facility awaiting trial and the period of time the youthful offender spent on an electronic monitoring bracelet awaiting trial to the factors considered before sentencing a child or youthful offender to a commitment to the department of youth services until they reaches the age of twenty-one in Section 58.

Section 1b – Adds a requirement to Section 58 of Chapter 119 for courts, when sentencing youthful offenders, to consider time spent as sentenced under Section 58 to be time served for further sentencing.

Section 2 – Adds a paragraph to Section 68 of Chapter 119 requiring the department of youth services to prepare a report for courts before adjudication concerning: the length of time the youthful offender spent in department of youth services custody before trial; the period of time the youthful offender spent on an electronic monitoring bracelet awaiting trial; participation of the youthful offender in department of youth services programming; behavior and compliance of the youthful offender during their pre-trial detention; and limits the reporting of these matters to details that the department deems could positively impact sentencing.

Section 3 – Adds the following required information to the internal reports under Section 5 of Chapter 120: the length of time the youthful offender spent in DYS custody before trial; participation of the youthful offender in DYS programming; and behavior and compliance of the youthful offender during their commitment. Additionally, the department is required to inform the child that these factors will be monitored.