

The Juvenile Justice Bill

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



Summary

- 1 This omnibus bill encourages rehabilitation and positive future outcomes for youth, reduces recidivism, and ensures fair treatment of children.
- 2 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.
- 3 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
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Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means



Senator Cynthia S. Creem
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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

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM OMNIBUS BILL



Updates parent-child privilege; preventing parents from being forced to testify against their child



Creates expungement process for juvenile records for certain misdemeanors



Bans the automatic shackling of children in court proceedings



Codifies children's legal right to an attorney



Excludes very young children from delinquency proceedings; raising min. age to 11 years old

S.2417