

1 H.334

2 Introduced by Representatives Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Burke of Brattleboro,
3 O'Sullivan of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Walz of
4 Barre City

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Corrections; human services; Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation
8 Center

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to transfer
10 regulatory oversight of the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center to the
11 Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, and limit the
12 length of placements at the facility.

13 An act relating to the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5801 is amended to read:

16 § 5801. WOODSIDE JUVENILE REHABILITATION CENTER

17 (a) The Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in the town of Essex shall
18 be operated and licensed by the Department for Children and Families as a
19 residential treatment facility that provides in-patient psychiatric, mental health,

1 and substance abuse services in a secure setting for adolescents who have been
2 adjudicated or charged with a delinquency or criminal act.

3 (b) The total capacity of the facility shall not exceed 30 beds.

4 (c) The purpose or capacity of the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
5 shall not be altered except by act of the General Assembly following a study
6 recommending any change of use by the Agency of Human Services.

7 (d) No person who has reached his or her 18th birthday may be placed at
8 Woodside. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person under ~~the age~~
9 of 18 years of age may be placed at Woodside, provided that he or she meets
10 the admissions criteria for treatment as established by the Department for
11 Children and Families. The Commissioner shall ensure that a child placed at
12 Woodside has the same or equivalent due process rights as a child placed at
13 Woodside in its previous role as a detention facility prior to the enactment of
14 this act.

15 (e) Adolescents may be placed at Woodside for short-term or long-term
16 treatment; provided, however, that the maximum length of time that an
17 adolescent may be placed at the facility shall not exceed 270 days.

18 (1) The length of a short-term placement at the facility shall not exceed
19 90 days.

1 (2) If an adolescent is placed at the facility for long-term treatment, the
2 Department shall hold a hearing every 90 days to evaluate whether continued
3 placement at the facility is appropriate.

4 (f) Notwithstanding the licensing requirement in section 7103 of this title,
5 the Division of Licensing and Protection of the Department of Disabilities,
6 Aging, and Independent Living shall have authority to regulate the Woodside
7 Juvenile Rehabilitation Center with respect to inspections, investigations, and
8 enforcement actions pursuant to the terms of chapter 71, subchapter 2 of this
9 title.

10 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.