

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 234 entitled “An act relating to adjudicating all teenagers in the Family
4 Division, except those charged with a serious violent felony” respectfully
5 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose
6 to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 12 (Department for
7 Children and Families; expanding juvenile jurisdiction; report) in its entirety
8 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 Sec. 12. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; EXPANDING
10 JUVENILE JURISDICTION; REPORT

11 (a) The Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the
12 Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs, the Office of the Defender
13 General, the Court Administrator, and the Commissioner of Corrections, shall:

14 (1) consider the implications, including necessary funding, of expanding
15 juvenile jurisdiction under 33 V.S.A. chapter 52 to encompass persons 18 and
16 19 years of age beginning in fiscal year 2021;

17 (2) on or before November 1, 2018, report to the Joint Legislative
18 Justice Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Child Protection
19 Oversight Committee on the status and plan for the expansion, including
20 necessary funding, measures necessary to avoid a negative impact on the

1 State's child protection response, and specific milestones related to operations
2 and policy, including:

3 (A) identification of and a timeline for structural and systemic
4 changes within the juvenile justice system for the Family Division, the
5 Department for Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the
6 Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, and the Office of the Defender
7 General;

8 (B) an operations and business plan that defines benchmarks,
9 including possible changes to resource allocations; and

10 (C) a clearly defined path for geographic consistency and court
11 alternatives and training needs; and

12 (3) provide status update reports to the Joint Legislative Justice
13 Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Child Protection Oversight
14 Committee on or before November 1, 2019, November 1, 2020, and November
15 1, 2021.

16 (b) The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and Joint Legislative
17 Child Protection Oversight Committee shall review the November 1, 2018
18 report, the plan for expansion, the necessary funding, and the subsequent status
19 reports as required by subsection (a) of this section to determine whether
20 adequate funding and supports are in place to implement the expansion of

1 juvenile jurisdiction to encompass persons 18 and 19 years of age in
2 accordance with the effective dates of this act, and shall:

3 (1) on or before December 1, 2019, December 1, 2020, and December 1,
4 2021, issue findings as to whether the milestones identified in subdivision
5 (a)(2) of this section related to operations and policy have been met and
6 whether an appropriate funding plan has been developed; and

7 (2) on or before December 1, 2018, December 1, 2019, December 1,
8 2020, and December 1, 2021, recommend legislation to amend the timeline for
9 the rollout of the expansion unless adequate funding and supports for the
10 expansion are available and milestones related to policy and operations have
11 been met.

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16 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE