

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 234 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 18- and 19-
16 year-olds 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 Committee on the status and plan for the expansion, including necessary
20 funding, measures necessary to avoid a negative impact on the State’s child

1 protection response, and specific milestones related to operations and policy,

2 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 States 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 Committee on
14 or before November 1, 2019, November 1, 2020, and November 1, 2021.

15 (b) The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and Joint Legislative
16 Child Protection Committee shall review the November 1, 2018 report, the
17 plan for expansion, the necessary funding and the subsequent status reports as
18 required by subsection (a) of this section to determine whether adequate
19 funding and supports are in place to implement the expansion of juvenile
20 jurisdiction to encompass 18- and 19-year-olds in accordance with the
21 effective dates of this act, and shall:

1 (1) on or before December 1, 2019, December 1, 2020, and December 1,
2 2021, issue findings as to whether the milestones identified in subdivision
3 (a)(2) of this section related to operations and policy have been met, and
4 whether an appropriate funding plan has been developed; and
5 (2) on or before December 1, 2018, December 1, 2019, December 1,
6 2020, and December 1, 2021, recommend legislation to amend the timeline for
7 the rollout of the expansion unless adequate funding and supports for the
8 expansion are available and milestones related to policy and operation have
9 been met.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE