

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred Senate Bill No. 232  
3 entitled “An act relating to implementing the expansion of juvenile  
4 jurisdiction” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

8 § 164. ADULT COURT DIVERSION PROJECT

9 (a) The Attorney General shall develop and administer an adult court  
10 diversion program in all counties. In consultation with diversion programs, the  
11 Attorney General shall adopt a policies and procedures manual in compliance  
12 with this section.

13 (b) The program shall be designed for two purposes:

14 (1) To assist adults who have been charged with a first or a second  
15 misdemeanor or a first nonviolent felony.

16 (2) To assist ~~adults with~~ persons who have been charged with an offense  
17 and who have substance abuse or mental health treatment needs regardless of  
18 the person’s prior criminal history record, except a person charged with a  
19 felony offense that is a crime listed in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) shall not be eligible  
20 under this section. Persons who have attained 18 years of age who are subject  
21 to a petition in the Family Division pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapters 52 or 52A

1 shall also be eligible under this section. Programming for these persons is  
2 intended to support access to appropriate treatment or other resources with the  
3 aim of improving the person's health and reducing future adverse involvement  
4 in the justice system. ~~A person charged with a felony offense that is a listed~~  
5 ~~crime pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 5301 shall not be eligible under this section.~~

6 \* \* \*

7 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 5103 is amended to read:

8 § 5103. JURISDICTION

9 (a) The Family Division of the Superior Court shall have exclusive  
10 jurisdiction over all proceedings concerning a child who is or who is alleged to  
11 be a delinquent child or a child in need of care or supervision brought under  
12 the authority of the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters, except as otherwise  
13 provided in such chapters.

14 (b) Orders issued under the authority of the juvenile judicial proceedings  
15 chapters shall take precedence over orders in other Family Division  
16 proceedings and any order of another court of this State, to the extent they are  
17 inconsistent. This section shall not apply to child support orders in a divorce,  
18 parentage, or relief from abuse proceedings until a child support order has been  
19 issued in the juvenile proceeding.

1 (c)(1) Except as otherwise provided by this title and by subdivision (2) of  
2 this subsection, jurisdiction over a child shall not be extended beyond the  
3 child's 18th birthday.

4 (2)(A) Jurisdiction over a child with a pending delinquency may be  
5 extended until six months beyond the child's:

6 (i) 19th birthday if the child was 16 or 17 years of age when he or  
7 she committed the offense; or

8 (ii) 20th birthday if the child was 18 years of age when he or she  
9 committed the offense.

10 (B) ~~In no case shall~~ Except for custody of individuals 18 years of age  
11 or older that may be ordered by the court under the authority of chapter 52 of  
12 this title, custody of a child or youth 18 years of age or older shall not be  
13 retained by or transferred to the Commissioner for Children and Families.

14 (C) Jurisdiction over a child in need of care or supervision shall not  
15 be extended beyond the child's 18th birthday.

16 (D) Jurisdiction over a youthful offender shall not extend beyond the  
17 youth's 22nd birthday.

18 (d) The court may terminate its jurisdiction over a child prior to the child's  
19 18th birthday by order of the court. If the child is not subject to another  
20 juvenile proceeding, jurisdiction shall terminate automatically in the following  
21 circumstances:



1 Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 5102 is amended to read:

2 § 5102. DEFINITIONS AND PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

3 As used in the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters:

4 \* \* \*

5 (2) “Child” means any of the following:

6 (A) an individual who is under 18 years of age and is a child in need  
7 of care or supervision as defined in subdivision (3)(A), (B), or (D) of this  
8 section (abandoned, abused, without proper parental care, or truant);

9 (B)(i) an individual who is under 18 years of age, is a child in need of  
10 care or supervision as defined in subdivision (3)(C) of this section (beyond  
11 parental control), and was under 16 years of age at the time the petition was  
12 filed; or

13 (ii) an individual who is between 16 and 17.5 years of age, is a  
14 child in need of care or supervision as defined in subdivision (3)(C) of this  
15 section (beyond parental control), and who is at high risk of serious harm to  
16 himself or herself or others due to problems such as substance abuse,  
17 prostitution, or homelessness.

18 (C) An individual who has been alleged to have committed or has  
19 committed an act of delinquency after becoming 10 years of age and prior to  
20 becoming 22 years of age, unless otherwise provided in chapter 52 or 52A of  
21 this title; provided, however:

1 (i) that an individual who is alleged to have committed an act  
2 before attaining 10 years of age which would be murder as defined in  
3 13 V.S.A. § 2301 if committed by an adult may be subject to delinquency  
4 proceedings; and

5 (ii) that an individual may be considered a child for the period of  
6 time the court retains jurisdiction under section 5104 of this title.

7 \* \* \*

8 (16)(A) “~~Legal custody~~ Custody” means the legal status created by  
9 order of the court under the authority of the juvenile judicial proceedings  
10 chapters ~~which~~ for children under 18 years of age that invests in a party to a  
11 juvenile proceeding or another person the following rights and responsibilities:

12 (i) the right to routine daily care and control of the child and to  
13 determine where and with whom the child shall live;

14 (ii) the authority to consent to major medical, psychiatric, and  
15 surgical treatment for a child;

16 (iii) the responsibility to protect and supervise a child and to  
17 provide the child with food, shelter, education, and ordinary medical care; and

18 (iv) the authority to make decisions ~~which~~ that concern the child  
19 and are of substantial legal significance, including the authority to consent to  
20 civil marriage and enlistment in the U.S. Armed Forces, and the authority to  
21 represent the child in legal actions.



1           (C) after attaining 17 years of age but before attaining 18 years of  
2           age, committed any offense not listed in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) or subsection  
3           5204(a) of this title, as long as the petition is filed prior to the defendant’s 19th  
4           birthday;

5           (2) a juvenile petition was never filed based upon the alleged conduct;  
6           and

7           (3) the statute of limitations has not tolled on the crime which the  
8           defendant is alleged to have committed.

9           (b)(1) The Family Division shall, except as provided in subdivision (2) of  
10          this subsection, transfer a petition filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(A) of  
11          this section to the Criminal Division if the Family Division finds that:

12                 (A) there is probable cause to believe that while the defendant was  
13                 less than 18 years of age he or she committed an act listed in subsection  
14                 5204(a) of this title;

15                 (B) there was good cause for not filing a delinquency petition in the  
16                 Family Division when the defendant was less than 18 years of age;

17                 (C) there has not been an unreasonable delay in filing the petition;  
18                 and

19                 (D) transfer would be in the interest of justice and public safety.

20           (2)(A) If a petition has been filed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(A) of  
21          this section, the Family Division may order that the defendant be treated as a

1 youthful offender consistent with the applicable provisions of chapter 52A of  
2 this title if the defendant is under 23 years of age and the Family Division:

3 (i) makes the findings required by subdivisions (1)(A), (B), and  
4 (C) of this subsection;

5 (ii) finds that the youth is amenable to treatment or rehabilitation  
6 as a youthful offender; and

7 (iii) finds that there are sufficient services in the Family Division  
8 system and the Department for Children and Families or the Department of  
9 Corrections to meet the youth's treatment and rehabilitation needs.

10 (B) If the Family Division orders that the defendant be treated as a  
11 youthful offender, the court shall approve a disposition case plan and impose  
12 conditions of probation on the defendant.

13 (C) If the Family Division finds after hearing that the defendant has  
14 violated the terms of his or her probation, the Family Division may:

15 (i) maintain the defendant's status as a youthful offender, with  
16 modified conditions of probation if the court deems it appropriate; or

17 (ii) revoke the defendant's youthful offender status and transfer  
18 the petition to the Criminal Division pursuant to subdivision (1) of this  
19 subsection.

20 (3) The Family Division shall in all respects treat a petition filed  
21 pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section in the same manner as a

1 petition filed pursuant to section 5201 of this title, except that the Family  
2 Division's jurisdiction shall end on or before the defendant's 22nd birthday, if  
3 the Family Division:

4 (A) finds that there is probable cause to believe that, after attaining  
5 14 years of age but before attaining 18 years of age, the defendant committed  
6 an offense listed in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) but not listed in subsection 5204(a) of  
7 this title; and

8 (B) makes the findings required by subdivisions (b)(1)(B) and (C) of  
9 this section.

10 (4) In making the determination required by subdivision (1)(D) of this  
11 subsection, the court may consider, among other matters:

12 (A) the maturity of the defendant as determined by consideration of  
13 his or her age; home; environment; emotional, psychological, and physical  
14 maturity; and relationship with and adjustment to school and the community;

15 (B) the extent and nature of the defendant's prior criminal record and  
16 record of delinquency;

17 (C) the nature of past treatment efforts and the nature of the  
18 defendant's response to them;

19 (D) whether the alleged offense was committed in an aggressive,  
20 violent, premeditated, or willful manner;

1           (E) the nature of any personal injuries resulting from or intended to  
2 be caused by the alleged act;

3           (F) whether the protection of the community would be best served by  
4 transferring jurisdiction from the Family Division to the Criminal Division of  
5 the Superior Court.

6           (c) If the Family Division does not transfer a petition filed pursuant to  
7 subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section to the Criminal Division or order that the  
8 defendant be treated as a youthful offender pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
9 section, the petition shall be dismissed.

10           (d)(1) The Family Division shall treat a petition filed pursuant to  
11 subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section in all respects in the same manner as a  
12 petition filed pursuant to section 5201 of this title if the court:

13           (A) finds that there is probable cause to believe that, after attaining  
14 17 years of age but before attaining 18 years of age, the defendant committed  
15 an offense not listed in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(7) or subsection 5204(a) of this title;  
16 and

17           (B) makes the findings required by subdivisions (b)(1)(B) and (C) of  
18 this section.

19           (2) The Family Division’s jurisdiction over cases filed pursuant to  
20 subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section shall end on or before the defendant’s 20th  
21 birthday.

1 Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 5206 is amended to read:

2 § 5206. CITATION OF 16- ~~AND 17- YEAR-OLDS~~ TO 18-YEAR-OLDS

3 (a)(1) If a child was over 16 years of age and under ~~18~~ 19 years of age at  
4 the time the offense was alleged to have been committed and the offense is not  
5 specified in subsection (b) of this section, law enforcement shall cite the child  
6 to the Family Division of the Superior Court.

7 (2) If, after the child is cited to the Family Division, the State's Attorney  
8 chooses to file the charge in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court, the  
9 State's Attorney shall state in the information the reason why filing in the  
10 Criminal Division is in the interest of justice.

11 (b) Offenses for which a law enforcement officer is not required to cite a  
12 child to the Family Division of the Superior Court shall include:

13 (1) 23 V.S.A. §§ 674 (driving while license suspended or revoked);  
14 1128 (accidents-duty to stop); and 1133 (eluding a police officer).

15 (2) Fish and wildlife offenses that are not minor violations as defined by  
16 10 V.S.A. § 4572.

17 (3) ~~A listed crime as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301.~~

18 (4) An offense listed in subsection 5204(a) of this title.

19 Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 5206 is amended to read:

20 § 5206. CITATION OF 16- ~~TO 18-YEAR-OLDS~~ 19-YEAR-OLDS

1 (a)(1) If a child was over 16 years of age and under ~~19~~ 20 years of age at  
2 the time the offense was alleged to have been committed and the offense is not  
3 specified in subsection (b) of this section, law enforcement shall cite the child  
4 to the Family Division of the Superior Court.

5 \* \* \*

6 Sec. 8. 33 V.S.A. § 5280 is amended to read:

7 § 5280. COMMENCEMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDER

8 PROCEEDINGS IN THE FAMILY DIVISION

9 (a) A proceeding under this chapter shall be commenced by:

10 (1) the filing of a youthful offender petition by a State's Attorney; or

11 (2) transfer to the Family Court of a proceeding from the Criminal

12 Division of the Superior Court as provided in section 5281 of this title.

13 (b) A State's Attorney may commence a proceeding in the Family Division  
14 of the Superior Court concerning a child who is alleged to have committed an  
15 offense after attaining 14 years of age but not 22 years of age that could  
16 otherwise be filed in the Criminal Division.

17 (c) If a State's Attorney files a petition under subdivision (a)(1) of this  
18 section, the case shall proceed as provided under subsection 5281(b) of this  
19 title.

20 (d) Within 15 days after the commencement of a youthful offender  
21 proceeding pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the youth shall be offered

1 a risk and needs screening, which shall be conducted by the Department or by  
2 a community provider that has contracted with the Department to provide risk  
3 and needs screenings. The risk and needs screening shall be completed prior to  
4 the youthful offender status hearing held pursuant to section 5283 of this title.  
5 Unless the court extends the period for the risk and needs screening for good  
6 cause shown, the Family Division shall reject the case for youthful offender  
7 treatment if the youth does not complete the risk and needs screening within  
8 15 days of the offer for the risk and needs screening.

9 (1) The Department or the community provider shall report the risk level  
10 result of the screening, the number and source of the collateral contacts made,  
11 and the recommendation for charging or other alternatives to the State's  
12 Attorney.

13 (2) Information related to the present alleged offense directly or  
14 indirectly derived from the risk and needs screening or other conversation with  
15 the Department or community-based provider shall not be used against the  
16 youth in the youth's criminal or juvenile case for any purpose, including  
17 impeachment or cross-examination. However, the fact of participation in risk  
18 and needs screening may be used in subsequent proceedings.

19 (e) If The State's Attorney shall refer directly to court diversion a youth  
20 alleged to have committed any offense other than those specified in subsection  
21 5204(a) of this title who presents a low to moderate risk to reoffend based on

1 the results of the risk and needs screening, ~~the State's Attorney shall refer a~~  
2 ~~youth directly to court diversion~~ unless the State's Attorney states on the  
3 record at the hearing held pursuant to section 5283 of this title why a referral  
4 would not serve the ends of justice. If the court diversion program does not  
5 accept the case or if the youth fails to complete the program in a manner  
6 deemed satisfactory and timely by the provider, the youth's case shall return to  
7 the State's Attorney for charging consideration.

8 Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. § 5287 is amended to read:

9 § 5287. TERMINATION OR CONTINUANCE OF PROBATION

10 (a) A motion or stipulation may be filed at any time in the Family Division  
11 requesting that the court terminate the youth's status as a youthful offender and  
12 discharge him or her from probation. The motion may be filed by the State's  
13 Attorney, the youth, the Department, or the court on its own motion. ~~The court~~  
14 ~~shall set the motion for hearing and provide notice and an opportunity to be~~  
15 ~~heard at the hearing to the State's Attorney, the youth, the Department for~~  
16 ~~Children and Families and the Department of Corrections.~~

17 (b) In determining whether a youth has successfully completed the terms of  
18 probation, the court shall consider:

19 (1) the degree to which the youth fulfilled the terms of the case plan and  
20 the probation order;

21 (2) the youth's performance during treatment;

1 (3) reports of treatment personnel; and

2 (4) any other relevant facts associated with the youth's behavior.

3 (c) If the court finds that the youth has successfully completed the terms of  
4 the probation order, it shall terminate youthful offender status, discharge the  
5 youth from probation, and file a written order dismissing the Family Division  
6 case. The Family Division shall provide notice of the dismissal to the Criminal  
7 Division, which shall dismiss the criminal case.

8 (d) Upon discharge and dismissal under subsection (c) of this section, all  
9 records relating to the case in the Criminal Division shall be expunged, and all  
10 records relating to the case in the Family Court shall be sealed pursuant to  
11 section 5119 of this title.

12 (e) If the court denies the motion to discharge the youth from probation, the  
13 court may extend or amend the probation order as it deems necessary.

14 (f) Upon the termination of the period of probation, the youth shall be  
15 discharged from probation.

16 Sec. 10. 33 V.S.A. subchapter 6 is amended to read:

17 Subchapter 6. Placement of ~~Minors~~ in Secure Facilities

18 § 5291. DETENTION OR TREATMENT OF ~~MINORS~~ INDIVIDUALS

19 CHARGED AS DELINQUENTS IN SECURE FACILITIES FOR

20 THE DETENTION OR TREATMENT OF DELINQUENT

21 CHILDREN

1 (a) Prior to disposition, the court shall have the sole authority to place a  
2 child who is in the custody of the Department in a secure facility used for the  
3 detention or treatment of delinquent children until the Commissioner  
4 determines that a suitable placement is available for the child. The court shall  
5 not order placement in a secure facility without a recommendation from the  
6 Department that placement in a secure facility is necessary. The court order  
7 shall include a finding that no other suitable placement is available and the  
8 child presents a risk of injury to himself or herself, to others, or to property.

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 11. 28 V.S.A. § 1101 is amended to read:

11 § 1101. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER  
12 REGARDING JUVENILE SERVICES

13 The Commissioner is charged with the following powers and  
14 responsibilities regarding the administration of juvenile services:

15 (1) to provide appropriate, ~~separate~~ facilities for the custody and  
16 treatment of offenders under 25 years of age committed to his or her custody in  
17 accordance with the laws of the State;

18 \* \* \*

1       Sec. 12. REDUCTION IN FORCE OF WOODSIDE JUVENILE  
2                               REHABILITATION CENTER EMPLOYEES

3               On or before the date of passage of this act, the State of Vermont and the  
4       collective bargaining representative of the employees employed at the  
5       Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center facility shall engage in bargaining  
6       regarding whether and how to modify any terms of the applicable collective  
7       bargaining agreement in relation to permanent status classified employees who  
8       are subject to a reduction in force from their positions at the Woodside  
9       Juvenile Rehabilitation Center facility.

10       Sec. 13. POPULATION FUNDING COMMITMENT; AGENCY OF  
11                               HUMAN SERVICES; WOODSIDE JUVENILE  
12                               REHABILITATION CENTER; PLAN FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED  
13                               YOUTH

14               (a) The Fiscal Year 2021 budget as proposed by the Administration:

15                       (1) anticipates closure of the secure Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation  
16       Center facility that provides short and long-term placements and treatment  
17       services for justice-involved youths and youths in the custody of the  
18       Department for Children and Families; and

19                       (2) allocates in FY21 a total of \$2,500,000.00 in General Funds and any  
20       Federal Medicaid matching funds to serve this population in alternative  
21       placements approved by the Department for Children and Families.

1       **(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Woodside Juvenile**  
2       **Rehabilitation Center facility remain open until its closure is authorized by the**  
3       **appropriate committees of the General Assembly as provided in this**  
4       **subsection. Upon completion of its plan as provided in subsection (c) of this**  
5       **section, the Agency shall report to the appropriate committees as follows:**

6               **(1) prior to the adjournment of the 2020 legislative session, the Agency**  
7       **shall report to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the House Committee on**  
8       **Human Services; or**

9               **(2) after the adjournment of the 2020 legislative session, the Agency**  
10       **shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Joint Legislative Justice**  
11       **Oversight Committee.**

12       **(c) The appropriate committees as set forth in subsection (b) of this section**  
13       **shall authorize the closure of the facility upon approving the Agency’s plan to:**

14               **(1) adequately fund alternative programs and placements for youths**  
15       **served by Woodside, including those programs and placements that currently**  
16       **accept justice-involved youths who present a risk of injury to themselves, to**  
17       **others, or to property; and**

18               **(2) provide placements for all youths under 18 years of age who are in**  
19       **the custody of the Department of Corrections, and who have historically been**  
20       **placed at Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center instead of a Department of**

1 Corrections facility pursuant to the memorandum of understanding between the  
2 two departments.

3 Sec. 14. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; PLAN FOR YOUTH WITH  
4 MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

5 (a) During the 2020 legislative interim, the Agency of Human Services  
6 shall develop a plan to provide comprehensive mental health treatment services  
7 to youths, including justice-involved youths, with severe mental health  
8 disorders.

9 (b) On or before January 15, 2021, the Agency shall report to the House  
10 and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Corrections and  
11 Institutions, the Senate Institutions Committee, the House Human Services  
12 Committee, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare on its plans  
13 pursuant to this subsection and recommendations for repurposing of the  
14 Woodside facility.

15 Sec. 15. APPROPRIATION

16 In FY21, the amount of \$2,500,000.00, as reflected in the Governor's  
17 proposed FY2021 budget, is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
18 Agency of Human Services to fund short and long-term residential placements  
19 and treatment services for justice-involved youth and youth in the custody of  
20 the Department for Children and Families.

1       Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATES

2           (a) Sec. 3 (33 V.S.A. § 510(c)) Sec. 7 (33 V.S.A. § 5206) shall take effect  
3       on July 1, 2022.

4           (b) This section and Sec. 15 (appropriation) shall take effect on passage.

5           (c) The rest of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

6

7

8       (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

9

10

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

11

FOR THE COMMITTEE