Introduced by Committee on Judiciary 1 2 Date: 3 Subject: Juvenile proceedings; implementation of juvenile jurisdiction expansion; rights of victims 4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to pause by one 5 6 year the expansion of juvenile jurisdiction to 19-year-olds, to enhance the rights of victims in juvenile and youthful offender proceedings, and to make 7 8 several other modifications to court proceedings in juvenile matters.

9	An act relating to juvenile proceedings
10	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
11	* * * Pause of Juvenile Jurisdiction Expansion * * *
12	Sec. 1. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 201, Sec. 21 is amended to read:
13	Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES
14	* * *
15	(d) Secs. 17–19 shall take effect on July 1, 2022 July 1, 2023.
16	Sec. 2. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 124, Sec. 12 is amended to read:
17	Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATES
18	(a) Secs. 3 (33 V.S.A. § 510(c)) (33 V.S.A. § 5103(c)) and 7 (33 V.S.A.
19	§ 5206) shall take effect on July 1, 2022 July 1, 2023.
20	* * *

1	* * * Victim's Compensation and Restitution in Juvenile Proceedings * * *
2	Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 5119 is amended to read:
3	§ 5119. SEALING OF RECORDS
4	* * *
5	(i) Upon receipt of a court order to seal a record relating to an offense for
6	which there is an identifiable victim, a State's Attorney shall record the name
7	and date of birth of the victim, the offense, and the date of the offense. The
8	name and any identifying information regarding the defendant shall not be
9	recorded. Victim information retained by a State's Attorney pursuant to this
10	subsection shall be available only to victims' advocates, the Victims'
11	Compensation Program, and the victim and shall otherwise be confidential.
12	The Victim's Compensation Program may be provided with a redacted copy,
13	redacted of all information identifying the youth or delinquent child, of the
14	affidavit for the sole purpose of verifying the expenses in a victim's
15	compensation application submitted pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 5353.
16	* * *
17	Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 5235 is amended to read:
18	§ 5235. JUVENILE RESTITUTION
19	* * *
20	(e) In the event the juvenile is unable to pay the restitution judgment order
21	at the time of disposition, the court shall fix the amount thereof, which shall

1	not exceed an amount the juvenile can or will be able to pay, and shall fix the
2	manner of performance or refer to a restorative justice program that will
3	address how loss resulting from the delinquency will be addressed, and
4	establish a restitution payment schedule based upon the juvenile's current and
5	reasonably foreseeable future ability to pay, subject to modification under
6	section 5264 of this title.
7	* * *
8	(k)(1) The Restitution Unit may bring an action to enforce a restitution
9	order issued under this section in the Superior or Small Claims Court of the
10	county where the offender resides or in the county where the order was issued.
11	In an action under this subsection, a restitution order issued in a juvenile
12	proceeding shall be enforceable in Superior or Small Claims Court in the same
13	manner as a civil judgment. Superior and Small Claims Court filing fees shall
14	be waived for an action under this subsection and for an action to renew a
15	restitution judgment.
16	(2) An action under this subsection may be brought only after the
17	offender reaches 18 years of age and shall not be subject to any limitations
18	period.
19	(3) For purposes of this subsection, a restitution order issued in a
20	juvenile proceeding shall not be confidential. The sealing of a juvenile record
21	shall not affect the authority of the Restitution Unit to enforce a restitution

1	order in the same manner as a civil judgment under subdivision (1) of this
2	subsection (k).
3	* * * Rights of Victims in Juvenile and Youthful Offender Proceedings * * *
4	Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 5304 is amended to read:
5	§ 5304. VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
б	* * *
7	(2) Notification. Victims, other than victims of acts of delinquency,
8	shall be notified in a timely manner when a court proceeding involving their
9	case is scheduled to take place and when a court proceeding to which they
10	have been summoned will not take place as scheduled. Victims shall also be
11	notified as to the final disposition of the case, and shall be notified of their
12	right to request notification of a person's release or escape under section 5305
13	of this title. Notwithstanding this subdivision, the notification rights of victims
14	of delinquent acts are governed by chapters 52 and 52A of Title 33.
15	* * *
16	Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. § 5305 is amended to read:
17	§ 5305. INFORMATION CONCERNING RELEASE FROM CUSTODY
18	(a) Victims, other than victims of acts of delinquency, and affected persons
19	shall have the right to request notification by the agency having custody of the
20	defendant before the defendant is released, including a release on bail or
21	

1	termination or discharge from probation; or whenever the defendant escapes,
2	is recaptured, dies, or receives a pardon or commutation of sentence. Notice
3	shall be given to the victim or affected person as expeditiously as possible at
4	the address or telephone number provided to the agency having custody of the
5	defendant by the person requesting notice. Any address or telephone number
6	so provided shall be kept confidential. The prosecutor's office shall ensure
7	that victims are made aware of their right to notification of an offender's
8	scheduled release date pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding this
9	subsection, the right to information for victims of delinquent acts is governed
10	by chapters 52 and 52A of Title 33.
11	* * *
12	Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 5110 is amended to read:
13	§ 5110. CONDUCT OF HEARINGS
14	(a) Hearings under the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters shall be
15	conducted by the court without a jury and shall be confidential.
16	(b) The general public shall be excluded from hearings under the juvenile
17	judicial proceedings chapters, and only the parties, their counsel, witnesses,
18	persons accompanying a party for his or her the party's assistance, and such
19	other persons as the court finds to have a proper interest in the case or in the
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	work of the court, including a foster parent or a representative of a residential

1	without party status seeking inclusion in the hearing in accordance with this
2	subsection may petition the court for admittance by filing a request with the
3	clerk of the court. This subsection shall not prohibit a victim's exercise of his
4	or her rights under sections 5233 and 5234 of this title, and as otherwise
5	provided by law.
6	(c) There shall be no publicity given by any person to any proceedings
7	under the authority of the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters except with
8	the consent of the child, the child's guardian ad litem, and the child's parent,
9	guardian, or custodian. A person who violates this provision may be subject to
10	contempt proceedings pursuant to Rule 16 of the Vermont Rules for Family
11	Proceedings. This subsection shall not prohibit a victim from discussing
12	underlying facts of the alleged offense that resulted in death or physical,
13	emotional, or financial injury to the victim, provided that, unless otherwise
14	provided by law or court order, a victim shall not disclose what occurs during a
15	court proceeding, or information learned through a court proceeding that is not
16	an underlying facts of the alleged offense that resulted in death or physical,
17	emotional, or financial injury to the victim.
18	(d)(4) This section shall not prohibit a victim's exercise of rights provided
19	by section <b>5233 and</b> 5234 of this title, and as otherwise provided by law.
20	(2) Notwithstanding this section or any other provision of law, a victim
21	in a juvenile proceeding may discuss the victim's own lived experience as a

1	victim with family or household members and health care providers, provided
2	that the victim does not discuss the court proceedings or disclose any other
3	matters that are confidential by law.
4	Sec. 8. 33 V.S.A. § 5126 is added to read:
5	§ 5126. INFORMATION FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
6	(a) Information to all victims in juvenile and youthful offender
7	proceedings. After initial contact between a victim and a law enforcement
8	agency responsible for investigating the offense, the agency shall promptly
9	give in writing to the victim:
10	(1) an explanation of the victim's rights under this chapter and chapters
11	52 and 52A of this title;
12	(2) information concerning the availability of:
13	(A) assistance to victims, including medical, housing, counseling,
14	and emergency services;
15	(B) compensation for victims under 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, and the
16	name, street address, and telephone number of the Center for Crime Victim
17	Services;
18	(C) protection for the victim, including protective court orders; and
19	(D) access by the victim and the offender to records related to the
20	case which are public under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3
21	(access to public records).

1	(b) Information to victims of listed crimes. As soon as practicable, the law
2	enforcement agency shall use reasonable efforts to give to the victim of a listed
3	crime, as relevant, all of the following:
4	(1) information as to the offender's identity unless inconsistent with law
5	enforcement purposes;
6	(2) information as to whether the offender has been taken into custody;
7	(3) the file number of the case and the name, office street address, and
8	telephone number of the law enforcement officer currently assigned to
9	investigate the case;
10	(4) the prosecutor's name, office street address, and telephone number;
11	(5) an explanation that no individual is under an obligation to respond to
12	questions that may be asked outside a courtroom or deposition; and
13	(6) information concerning any conditions of release imposed on the
14	offender prior to an initial court appearance, unless otherwise limited by court
15	order.
16	Sec. 9. 33 V.S.A. § 5127 is added to read:
17	<u>§ 5127. VICTIM'S RIGHT TO PRESENCE OF VICTIM'S ADVOCATE</u>
18	When a victim in a juvenile or youthful offender proceeding is ordered by
19	the court to attend or has a right to attend the proceeding, the victim may be
20	accompanied at the proceeding by a victim's advocate.
21	Sec. 10. 33 V.S.A. § 5234 is amended to read:

1	§ 5234. RIGHTS OF VICTIMS IN DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS
2	INVOLVING A LISTED CRIME
3	(a) The victim in a delinquency proceeding involving a listed crime shall
4	have the following rights:
5	(1) To be notified by the prosecutor's office in a timely manner of the
6	following:
7	(A) when a delinquency petition has been filed, the name of the child
8	and any conditions of release initially ordered for the child or modified by the
9	court that are, unless otherwise limited by court order
10	(i) related to the victim or a member of the victim's family or
11	current household <u>; or</u>
12	(ii) deemed necessary for disclosure to the victim in the discretion
13	of the court;
14	(B) his or her the victim's rights as provided by law, information
15	regarding how a case proceeds through a delinquency proceeding, the
16	confidential nature of delinquency proceedings, and that it is unlawful to
17	disclose confidential information concerning the proceedings to another
18	person;
19	(C) when a predispositional or dispositional court proceeding is
20	scheduled to take place and when a court proceeding of which he or she the

1	(D) whether delinquency has been found and disposition has
2	occurred, and any conditions of release or conditions of probation that are
3	related to the victim or a member of the victim's family or current household
4	or deemed necessary for disclosure to the victim in the discretion of the court,
5	and any restitution, when ordered unless otherwise limited by court order.
6	(2) To file with the court a written or recorded statement of the impact
7	of the delinquent act on the victim and the need for restitution.
8	(3) To be present during all court proceedings subject to the provisions
9	of Rule 615 of the Vermont Rules of Evidence and to express reasonably the
10	victim's views concerning the offense and the youth, to attend the disposition
11	hearing and to present a victim impact statement, including testimony in
12	support of his or her the victim's claim for restitution pursuant to section 5235
13	of this title, and to be notified as to the disposition, including probation. The
14	court shall consider the victim's statement when ordering disposition. The
15	victim shall not be personally present at any portion of the disposition hearing
16	except to present a victim impact statement or to testify in support of his or her
17	claim for restitution unless the court finds that the victim's presence is
18	necessary in the interest of justice.
19	(4) Upon request, to $\underline{To}$ be notified by the agency having custody of the
20	delinquent child before he or she the victim is discharged from a secure or
21	staff-secured residential facility. The name of the facility shall not be

1	disclosed. An agency's inability to give notification shall not preclude the
2	release. However, in such an event, the agency shall take reasonable steps to
3	give notification of the release as soon thereafter as practicable. Notification
4	efforts shall be deemed reasonable if the agency attempts to contact the victim
5	at the address or telephone number provided to the agency in the request for
6	notification.
7	(5) To have the court take his or her the victim's views into
8	consideration in the court's disposition order. If the victim is not present, the
9	court shall consider whether the victim has expressed, either orally or in
10	writing, views regarding disposition and shall take those views into account
11	when ordering disposition.
12	(6) [Repealed.]
13	(b) The prosecutor's office shall keep the victim informed and consult with
14	the victim through the delinquency proceedings.
15	Sec. 11. 33 V.S.A. § 5234a is amended to read:
16	§ 5234a. RIGHTS OF VICTIMS IN DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS
17	INVOLVING A NONLISTED CRIME
18	(a) The victim in a delinquency proceeding involving an offense that is not
19	a listed crime shall have the following rights:
20	(1) To be notified by the prosecutor's office in a timely manner of the
21	following:

1	(A) his or her the victim's rights as provided by law, information
2	regarding how a delinquency proceeding is adjudicated, the confidential nature
3	of juvenile proceedings, and that it is unlawful to disclose confidential
4	information concerning the proceedings;
5	(B) when a delinquency petition is filed;
6	(C) the child's name and the conditions of release ordered for the
7	child or modified by the court <mark>if the conditions relate to the victim or a member</mark>
8	of the victim's family or current household or are deemed necessary for
9	disclosure to the victim in the discretion of the court, unless otherwise limited
10	by court order; and
11	(D) when a dispositional court proceeding is scheduled to take place
12	and when a court proceeding of which he or she the victim has been notified
13	will not take place as scheduled.
14	(2) That delinquency has been found and disposition has occurred, and
15	any conditions of release or conditions of probation that are related to the
16	victim or a member of the victim's family or current household or are deemed
17	necessary for disclosure to the victim in the discretion of the court, and any
18	restitution ordered, unless otherwise limited by court order.
19	(3) To file with the court a written or recorded statement of the impact
20	of the delinquent act on the victim and any need for restitution.

1	(4) To attend the disposition hearing for the sole purpose of presenting
2	to the court a victim impact statement, including testimony in support of his or
3	her the victim's claim for restitution pursuant to section 5235 of this title. The
4	victim shall not be personally present at any portion of the disposition hearing
5	except to present a victim impact statement or to testify in support of his or her
6	the victim's claim for restitution unless the court finds that the victim's
7	presence is necessary in the interest of justice.
8	(5) <u>To be notified by the agency having custody of the child before the</u>
9	child is released from a residential facility.
10	(6) To have the court take his or her the victim's views into
11	consideration in the court's disposition order. If the victim is not present, the
12	court shall consider whether the victim has expressed, either orally or in
13	writing, views regarding disposition and shall take those views into account
14	when ordering disposition. The court shall order that the victim be notified as
15	to the identity of the child upon disposition if the court finds that release of the
16	child's identity to the victim is in the best interests of both the child and the
17	victim and serves the interests of justice.
18	(b) The prosecutor's office shall keep the victim informed and consult with
19	the victim through the delinquency proceedings.
20	Sec. 12. 33 V.S.A. § 5288 is amended to read:
21	§ 5288. RIGHTS OF VICTIMS IN YOUTHFUL OFFENDER

PROCEEDINGS

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(a) The victim in a proceeding involving a youthful offender shall have the
following rights:
(1) to be notified by the prosecutor in a timely manner:
(A) when a court proceeding is scheduled to take place and when a
court proceeding to which he or she has been notified will not take place as
scheduled; and
(B) of any conditions of release or conditions of probation that are
related to the victim or a member of the victim's family or current household
or are deemed necessary for disclosure to the victim in the discretion of the
court, and of any restitution ordered, unless otherwise limited by court order;
(2) to be present during all court proceedings subject to the provisions of
Rule 615 of the Vermont Rules of Evidence and to express reasonably his or
her views concerning the offense and the youth;
(3) to request notification be notified by the agency having custody of
the youth before the youth is released from a residential facility;

(4) to be notified by the prosecutor as to the final disposition of the case; 17

- 18 (5) to be notified by the prosecutor of the victim's rights under this
- 19 section.
- 20 (b) In accordance with court rules, at a hearing on a motion for youthful 21 offender treatment, the court shall ask if the victim is present and, if so,

1	whether the victim would like to be heard regarding disposition. In ordering
2	disposition, the court shall consider any views offered at the hearing by the
3	victim. If the victim is not present, the court shall ask whether the victim has
4	expressed, either orally or in writing, views regarding disposition and shall
5	take those views into consideration in ordering disposition.
6	(c) No youthful offender proceeding shall be delayed or voided by reason of
7	the failure to give the victim the required notice or the failure of the victim to
8	appear.
9	(d) As used in this section, "victim" shall have the same meaning as in 13
10	V.S.A. § 5301(4).
11	(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a victim in a youthful
12	offender proceeding may discuss the victim's own lived experience as a victim
13	with family or household members and health care providers provided that the
14	victim does not discuss the court proceedings or disclose any other matters that
15	are confidential by law. This section shall not prohibit a victim from discussing
16	underlying facts of the alleged offense that resulted in death or physical,
17	emotional, or financial injury to the victim, provided that, unless otherwise
18	provided by law or court order, a victim shall not disclose what occurs during a
19	court proceeding, or information learned through a court proceeding that is not
20	an underlying facts of the alleged offense that resulted in death or physical,

1	* * Public Safety Requirement in Juvenile and Youthful Offender Cases * *
2	Sec. 13. 33 V.S.A. § 5284 is amended to read:
3	§ 5284. YOUTHFUL OFFENDER DETERMINATION AND DISPOSITION
4	ORDER
5	(a)(1) In a hearing on a motion for youthful offender status, the court shall
6	first consider whether public safety will be protected by treating the youth as a
7	youthful offender. If the court finds that public safety will not be protected by
8	treating the youth as a youthful offender, the court shall deny the motion and
9	transfer the case to the Criminal Division of the Superior Court pursuant to
10	subsection 5281(d) of this title. If the court finds that public safety will be
11	protected by treating the youth as a youthful offender, the court shall proceed
12	to make a determination under subsection (b) of this section.
13	(2) When determining whether public safety will be protected by treating
14	the youth as a youthful offender, the court shall consider, on the basis of
15	available information:
16	(A) the nature of the charge and whether violence was involved;
17	(B) the youth's mental health treatment history and needs;
18	(C) the youth's substance abuse history and needs;
19	(D) the youth's residential housing status;
20	(E) the youth's employment and educational situation;
21	(F) whether the youth has complied with conditions of release;

1	(G) whether the youth has engaged in subsequent violent acts criminal
2	or delinquent behavior since the original charge; and
3	(H) whether the juvenile justice system provides the youth with a
4	sufficiently meaningful accountability mechanism whether supervising the
5	youth on youthful offender probation is appropriate considering the nature of
6	the charged offense and the age and specialized needs of the youth;
7	(I) whether the youth has connections to the community; and
8	(J) the youth's history of violence and of illegal or violent conduct
9	involving firearms.
10	Sec. 14. 33 V.S.A. § 5204 is amended to read:
11	§ 5204. TRANSFER FROM FAMILY DIVISION OF THE SUPERIOR
12	COURT
13	<mark>* * *</mark>
14	(b) The State's Attorney of the county where the juvenile petition is
15	pending may move in the Family Division of the Superior Court for an order
16	transferring jurisdiction under subsection (a) of this section at any time prior to
17	adjudication on the merits. The filing of the motion to transfer jurisdiction shall
18	automatically stay the time for the hearing provided for in section 5225 of this
19	title, which stay shall remain in effect until such time as the Family Division of
20	the Superior Court may deny the motion to transfer jurisdiction.

1	(c) Upon the filing of a motion to transfer jurisdiction under subsection (b)
2	of this section, the Family Division of the Superior Court shall conduct a
3	hearing in accordance with procedures specified in subchapter 2 of this chapter
4	to determine whether:
5	(1) there is probable cause to believe that the child committed the
6	charged offense; and
7	(2) public safety and the interests of the community would not be served
8	by treatment of the child under the provisions of law relating to the Family
9	Division of the Superior Court and delinquent children.
10	(d) In making its determination as required under subsection (c) of this
11	section, the court may consider, among other matters:
12	(1) the maturity of the child as determined by consideration of his or her
13	age, home, environment; emotional, psychological, and physical maturity; and
14	relationship with and adjustment to school and the community;
15	(2) the extent and nature of the child's prior record of delinquency;
16	(3) the nature of past treatment efforts and the nature of the child's
17	response to them, including the youth's mental health treatment and substance
18	abuse treatment and needs;
19	(4) whether the alleged offense was committed in an aggressive, violent,
20	premeditated, or willful manner;

1	(5) the nature of any personal injuries resulting from or intended to be
2	caused by the alleged act;
3	(6) the prospects for rehabilitation of the child by use of procedures,
4	services, and facilities available through juvenile proceedings;
5	(7) whether the protection of the community would be better served by
6	transferring jurisdiction from the Family Division to the Criminal Division of
7	the Superior Court.
8	(8) the youth's residential housing status;
9	(9) the youth's employment and educational situation;
10	(10) whether the youth has complied with conditions of release;
11	(11) whether the youth has engaged in subsequent criminal or delinquent
12	behavior since the original charge;
13	(11) whether the youth has connections to the community; and
14	(12) the youth's history of violence and of illegal or violent conduct
15	involving firearms.
16	* * *
17	* * * Initial Appearance in Criminal Division * * *
18	Sec. 14. 33 V.S.A. § 5201 is amended to read:
19	§ 5201. COMMENCEMENT OF DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS
20	* * * * *

1	(h) Notwithstanding this section or any other provision of law, the initial
2	court appearance of a child who is alleged to have committed a felony may be
3	held in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court, provided that jurisdiction
4	shall thereafter be determined in accordance with this chapter and chapter 52A
5	<mark>of this title, if:</mark>
6	(1) the child is arrested without a warrant; and
7	(2) the Family Division is unable to preside over the initial appearance
8	<mark>in a timely manner.</mark>
9	* * * Psychosexual Evaluation * * *
10	Sec. 15. 33 V.S.A. § 5230 is amended to read:
11	§ 5230. DISPOSITION CASE PLAN
12	* * *
13	(d) Psychosexual Evaluation. For purposes of determining appropriate
14	conditions of probation for a disposition case plan under this section, the court
15	may order a psychosexual evaluation for a child charged with:
16	(1) lewd and lascivious conduct in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 2601;
17	(2) lewd and lascivious conduct with a child in violation of 13 V.S.A.
18	<u>§ 2602;</u>
19	(3) sexual assault in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 3252;
20	(4) aggravated sexual assault in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 3253;

1	(5) aggravated sexual assault of a child in violation of 13 V.S.A. §
2	<u>3253a;</u>
3	(6) kidnapping with intent to commit sexual assault in violation of
4	<u>13 V.S.A. § 2405(a)(1)(D); or</u>
5	(7) an offense involving sexual exploitation of children in violation of
6	<u>13 V.S.A. chapter 64.</u>
7	* * * Report on Secure Placements * * *
8	Sec. 16. REPORT
9	(a) On or before December 1, 2022, the Department for Children and
10	Families shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and on
11	Institutions on the availability of secure placements and transitional housing
12	for 18- and 19- year olds subject to juvenile and youthful offender proceedings.
13	The report shall include:
14	(1) both current and future options for secure placements, a plan to
15	ensure that the placements are available for youth going forward, a description
16	of the appropriates services to be provided, and a recommendation as to
17	whether dual custody with the Department of Corrections should be
18	considered; and
19	(2) a progress report on the requirement of Secs. 1 and 2 of this Act that
20	the Raise the Age initiative take effect on July 1, 2023, and a recommendation
21	as to whether implementation by that date is feasible.

- 1 (b) On or before July 1, 2022, the Department for Children and Families
- 2 <u>shall file a preliminary report to the Joint Legislative Committee on Justice</u>
- 3 Oversight describing the progress made toward completion of the final report
- 4 required by subsection (a) of this section.
- 5 Sec. 17. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 6 <u>This act shall take effect on passage.</u>