

Report of Committee of Conference

H.642

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee of Conference, to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill, entitled:

H.642. An act relating to youthful offender proceedings.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the Senate recede from its proposal of amendment and that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5285 is amended to read:

§ 5285. MODIFICATION OR REVOCATION OF DISPOSITION

(a)(1) If it appears that the youth has violated the terms of juvenile probation ordered by the court pursuant to subdivision 5284(c)(1) of this title, a motion for modification or revocation of youthful offender status may be filed in the Family Division of the Superior Court. The court shall set the motion for hearing as soon as practicable. The hearing may be joined with a hearing on a violation of conditions of probation under section 5265 of this title. A supervising juvenile or adult probation officer may detain in an adult facility a

youthful offender who has attained 18 years of age for violating conditions of probation.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision 5103(c)(2)(D) of this title, when a motion for revocation of youthful offender status is pending pursuant to this section, the Family Division's jurisdiction over the youth shall remain in effect until the youth is discharged or until probation is revoked. The Family Division may extend its jurisdiction over the youth beyond the youth's 22nd birthday to the extent necessary to maintain jurisdiction under this subdivision.

(b) A hearing under this section shall be held in accordance with section 5268 of this title.

(c)(1) If the court finds after the hearing that the youth has violated the terms of ~~his or her~~ the youth's probation, the court may:

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) maintain the youth's status as a youthful offender, with modified conditions of juvenile probation if the court deems it appropriate;

~~(2)(B)~~ (B) revoke the youth's status as a youthful offender and transfer the case with a record of the petition, affidavit, adjudication, disposition, and revocation to the Criminal Division for sentencing; or

~~(3)(C)~~ (C) transfer supervision of the youth to the Department of Corrections with all of the powers and authority of the Department and the Commissioner under Title 28, including graduated sanctions and electronic monitoring.

(2) For purposes of making its determination under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court shall consider whether:

(A) under the criteria of subdivision 5284(a)(2) of this title, public safety will be protected by continuing to treat the youth as a youthful offender;

(B) the youth continues to be amenable to treatment or rehabilitation as a youthful offender; and

(C) there continue to be sufficient services in the juvenile court system, the Department for Children and Families, and the Department of Corrections to meet the youth's treatment and rehabilitation needs.

(d) If the youth fails to appear at a probation revocation hearing under this section, the court may, unless it finds there was good cause for the failure to appear, issue an order pursuant to subsection 5108(c) of this title for an officer to pick up the youth and bring the youth to court.

(e) If a youth's status as a youthful offender is revoked and the case is transferred to the Criminal Division pursuant to subdivision ~~(e)~~(2)(c)(1)(B) of this section, the court shall enter a conviction of guilty based on the admission to or finding of merits, hold a sentencing hearing, and impose sentence. Unless it serves the ~~interest~~ interests of justice, the case shall not be transferred back to the Family Division pursuant to section 5203 of this title. When determining an appropriate sentence, the court may take into consideration the youth's degree of progress toward or regression from rehabilitation while on

youthful offender status. The Criminal Division shall have access to all Family Division records of the proceeding.

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 5288 is amended to read:

§ 5288. RIGHTS OF VICTIMS IN YOUTHFUL OFFENDER
PROCEEDINGS

(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 of which the victim has been notified will not take place as scheduled; and

(B) of any conditions of release or conditions of probation and of any restitution 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; to attend the hearing on the motion to consider youthful offender status and the disposition hearing to present a victim impact statement and to express reasonably the victim's views concerning the offense and the youth, including testimony in support of the victim's claim for restitution; and to submit oral or written statements to the court at such other times as the court may allow. The court shall consider the

victim's statement ~~when ordering disposition~~ pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(3) To be notified by the agency having custody of the youth before the youth is released into the community from a secure or staff-secured residential facility.

(4) To be notified by the prosecutor as to the final disposition of the case.

(5) To be notified by the prosecutor of the victim's rights under this section.

(b) In accordance with court rules, at a hearing on a motion to consider youthful offender status or at a hearing on for youthful offender treatment disposition, the court shall ask if the victim is present and, if so, whether the victim would like to be heard regarding the motion or disposition. In ordering youthful offender status or disposition, the court shall consider any views offered at the hearing by the victim. If the victim is not present, the court shall ask whether the victim has expressed, either orally or in writing, views regarding youthful offender status or disposition and shall take those views into consideration in ordering youthful offender status or disposition.

(c) No youthful offender proceeding shall be delayed or voided by reason of the failure to give the victim the required notice or the failure of the victim to appear.

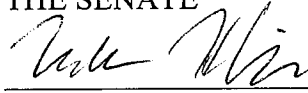
(d) As used in this section, “victim” ~~shall have~~ has the same meaning as in 13 V.S.A. § 5301(4).

(e) This section shall not prohibit a victim from discussing underlying facts of the alleged offense that resulted in death or physical, emotional, or financial injury to the victim, provided that, unless otherwise provided by law or court order, a victim shall not disclose what occurs during a court proceeding or information learned through a court proceeding that is not an underlying fact of the alleged offense that resulted in death or physical, emotional, or financial injury to the victim.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

COMMITTEE ON THE PART OF
THE SENATE



SEN. NADER A. HASHIM




SEN. TANYA C. VYHOVSKY



SEN. CHRISTOPHER P. MATTOS

COMMITTEE ON THE PART OF
THE HOUSE



REP. KAREN N. DOLAN



REP. IAN GOODNOW



REP. THOMAS OLIVER JR.