

The House Committee on Juvenile Justice offers the following substitute to HB 440:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 Juvenile Code, so as to change the jurisdiction of the juvenile court to include children who  
3 are under 18 years of age; to establish a Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee; to  
4 provide for a uniform citation form for certain juvenile offenses; to amend Title 42 of the  
5 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, so as to clarify provisions  
6 regarding juveniles; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
7 purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **PART I**

10 **SECTION 1-1.**

11 Chapter 11 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Juvenile  
12 Code, is amended by revising paragraph (10) of Code Section 15-11-2, relating to definitions,  
13 as follows:

14 "(10) 'Child' means any individual who is:

15 (A) Under the age of 18 years;

16 (B) Under the age of ~~17~~ 18 years when alleged to have committed a delinquent act;

17 (C) Under the age of 22 years and in the care of DFCS as a result of being adjudicated  
18 dependent before reaching 18 years of age;

19 (D) Under the age of 23 years and eligible for and receiving independent living  
20 services through DFCS as a result of being adjudicated dependent before reaching 18  
21 years of age; or

22 (E) Under the age of 21 years who committed an act of delinquency before reaching  
23 the age of ~~17~~ 18 years and who has been placed under the supervision of the court or  
24 on probation to the court for the purpose of enforcing orders of the court."

25 **SECTION 1-2.**

26 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 15-11-7, relating  
27 to court of inquiry, as follows:

28 "(a) The juvenile court shall have jurisdiction to act as a court of inquiry with all the  
29 powers and rights allowed courts of inquiry in this state and to examine or investigate into  
30 the circumstances or causes of any conduct or acts of any person ~~17~~ 18 or more years of  
31 age that may be in violation of the laws of this state whenever such person is brought  
32 before the court in the course of any proceeding instituted under this chapter. The court  
33 shall cause the person to be apprehended and brought before it upon either a writ of  
34 summons, a warrant duly issued, or by arrest."

35 **SECTION 1-3.**

36 Said chapter is further amended by adding new Code sections to read as follows:

37 "15-11-482.

38 (a)(1) There is established the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee.

39 (2) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall provide administrative support for the work  
40 of the advisory committee. The commissioner of juvenile justice, or his or her designee  
41 who shall be an employee of the Department of Juvenile Justice, shall serve as secretary  
42 of the advisory committee.

43 (3) The advisory committee shall terminate on December 31, 2021.

44 (4) The advisory committee may apply for, receive, and accept grants of funds from  
45 sources other than the appropriation of state funds to assist in the performance of its  
46 duties.

47 (b) The Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee shall:

48 (1) Be responsible for developing a specific plan for the implementation of changes in  
49 the juvenile justice system to extend jurisdiction in delinquency matters and proceedings  
50 to include persons 17 years of age within the juvenile justice system. The plan shall  
51 include cost estimates for each portion of the plan, including, but not limited to, capital,  
52 operating, and staffing costs. The advisory committee shall monitor and review the  
53 implementation of the expansion and shall make recommendations to the General  
54 Assembly as necessary;

55 (2) By December 31, 2020, submit an interim report containing the specific plan and the  
56 estimates for capital, operating, and staffing costs for the implementation of changing the  
57 juvenile justice system to include persons 17 years of age to the Governor's office and the  
58 General Assembly;

59 (3) By January 1, 2021, submit additional interim reports with updates on the planning  
60 steps completed toward implementation, including any legislative, administrative, and  
61 funding recommendations;

62 (4) Submit a final report on the implementation of changing the juvenile justice system  
63 to include persons 17 years of age and its findings and recommendations, including  
64 legislative, administrative, and funding recommendations, to the Governor, President of  
65 the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and General Assembly; and

66 (5) Develop a uniform citation form for misdemeanor offenses and a complaint form for  
67 use by all law enforcement officials who are empowered to arrest persons under 18 years  
68 of age for criminal offenses.

69 (c) The Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee shall consist of 14 members, who shall  
70 serve as ex officio members, as follows:

71 (1) The commissioner of juvenile justice;

72 (2) The president of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges;

73 (3) A representative from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police;

74 (4) A representative from the Georgia Sheriffs' Association;

75 (5) The commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities;

76 (6) The State School Superintendent;

77 (7) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate;

78 (8) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
79 House of Representatives;

80 (9) A representative from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers;

81 (10) A district attorney appointed by the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council; and

82 (11) Two members of the General Assembly to be appointed by the Governor, one of  
83 whom shall be designated by the Governor to serve as cochairperson. The President Pro  
84 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also each  
85 designate one member to serve as cochairperson of the advisory committee. The  
86 cochairpersons shall call the initial meeting of the advisory committee on or before  
87 August 1, 2020.

88 (d) The Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee shall:

89 (1) Meet upon such notice and in such manner as its members determine. A majority of  
90 the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum;

91 (2) Consult with appropriate state departments and agencies on issues related to juvenile  
92 justice administration;

93 (3) Call upon any department, agency, institution, or officer of the state or any political  
94 subdivision thereof for facilities, data, or other assistance; and

95 (4) Fill a vacancy in the advisory committee in the same manner in which the original  
 96 appointment was made.

97 15-11-483.

98 (a) On and after July 1, 2021, the uniform citation form provided for in paragraph (5) of  
 99 subsection (b) of Code Section 15-11-482 shall serve as the citation, summons, accusation,  
 100 or other instrument of prosecution of the offense or offenses for which the accused is  
 101 charged and as the record of the disposition of the matter by the juvenile court before  
 102 which the accused is brought. Each such form shall have a unique identifying number  
 103 which shall serve as the docket number for the court having jurisdiction of the accused.  
 104 The Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee established pursuant to Code Section  
 105 15-11-482 shall promulgate rules and regulations for each class of court for the use of such  
 106 citations.

107 (b) A uniform citation shall not be issued for any offense that, if committed by an adult,  
 108 would be a felony violation; any offense provided for in subsection (b) of Code  
 109 Section 15-11-560; or any offense provided for in Code Sections 16-15-3 and 16-15-4."

110 **SECTION 1-4.**

111 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (e) of Code Section 15-11-504,  
 112 relating to place of detention, as follows:

113 "(e) The official in charge of a jail or other facility for the detention of adult offenders or  
 114 persons charged with a crime shall inform the court or the juvenile court intake officer  
 115 immediately when a child who appears to be under the age of ~~17~~ 18 years is received at  
 116 such facility and shall deliver such child to the court upon request or transfer such child to  
 117 the facility designated by the juvenile court intake officer or the court."

118 **SECTION 1-5.**

119 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (d) of Code Section 15-11-561,  
 120 relating to waiver of juvenile court jurisdiction and transfer to superior court, as follows:

121 "(d) No child, either before or after reaching ~~17~~ 18 years of age, shall be prosecuted in  
 122 superior court for an offense committed before the child turned ~~17~~ 18, unless the case has  
 123 been transferred as provided in this part. In addition, no child shall be subject to criminal  
 124 prosecution at any time for an offense arising out of a criminal transaction for which the  
 125 juvenile court retained jurisdiction in its transfer order."

126 **SECTION 1-6.**

127 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 15-11-565,  
128 relating to places authorized for detention of child before and after transfer order, as follows:

129 "(b) After the entry of a judgment ordering transfer, a child shall be detained only in those  
130 places authorized for the detention of a child until such child, as set forth in Code  
131 Section 15-11-34, reaches ~~17~~ 18 years of age."

132 **PART II**

133 **SECTION 2-1.**

134 Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to penal institutions, is amended  
135 by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 42-5-52, relating to classification and separation  
136 of inmates generally and placement of juvenile offenders, as follows:

137 "(b) The department may establish separate correctional or similar institutions for the  
138 separation and care of juvenile offenders. The commissioner may transfer any juvenile  
139 under ~~17~~ 18 years of age from the penal institution in which he or she is serving to the  
140 Department of Juvenile Justice, provided that the transfer is approved thereby. The  
141 juvenile may be returned to the custody of the commissioner when the commissioner of  
142 juvenile justice determines that the juvenile is unsuited to be dealt with therein. The  
143 commissioner may accept a juvenile for transfer into a penal institution upon the request  
144 of the commissioner of juvenile justice if such juvenile is 16 years of age or older and has  
145 been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice for a class A designated felony act  
146 or class B designated felony act, as defined by Code Section 15-11-2, and such juvenile's  
147 behavior presents a substantial danger to any person at or within a Department of Juvenile  
148 Justice facility. In the event of such transfer, the department shall have the same authority  
149 over and responsibility for such juvenile as the Department of Juvenile Justice has for such  
150 juvenile and shall maintain sight and sound separation as set forth in paragraph (5) of  
151 subsection (c) of Code Section 15-11-504."

152 **SECTION 2-2.**

153 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 42-8-35.4, relating  
154 to confinement in probation detention center, as follows:

155 "(b) The court shall determine that the defendant is at least ~~17~~ 18 years of age at the time  
156 of sentencing."

157 **SECTION 2-3.**

158 Said title is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of Code Section 42-12-3, relating to  
159 definitions for the "Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996," as follows:

160 "(4) 'Prisoner' means a person ~~17~~ 18 years of age or older who has been convicted of a  
161 crime and is presently incarcerated or is being held in custody awaiting trial or  
162 sentencing."

163 **PART III**

164 **SECTION 3-1.**

165 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.