



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5670

LCO No. 2554

02554_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING COURT JURISDICTION OF YOUTHS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The Chief Court
2 Administrator shall conduct a demonstration project for a period of
3 three years in which a Youthful Offender Court Unit shall be
4 established within the Superior Court which shall have jurisdiction
5 over cases involving a youth in crisis, as defined in section 46b-120 of
6 the general statutes, or a youthful offender, as defined in section 54-
7 76b of the general statutes.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) Notwithstanding the
9 provisions of section 46b-121 of the general statutes and section 46b-
10 150f of the general statutes, as amended, for a period of three years
11 from the effective date of this section, a petition alleging a youth is a
12 youth in crisis shall be filed with the Youthful Offender Court Unit
13 established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

14 (b) Upon determination that a youth is a youth in crisis in
15 accordance with policies established by the Chief Court Administrator,
16 the Youthful Offender Court Unit may refer the youth to the Court

17 Support Services Division for the performance of an assessment of
18 such youth and such youth's family to determine the needs of such
19 youth and family and the availability of community-based programs
20 and services to meet those needs. Based upon such assessment, the
21 division shall offer age-appropriate, community-based programs and
22 services for such youth and such youth's family which may include
23 educational, vocational, mental health and substance abuse programs
24 and services. The youth and the youth's family may accept or decline
25 the offer of services.

26 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) Notwithstanding the
27 provisions of sections 54-76b to 54-76o, inclusive, of the general
28 statutes, for a period of three years from the effective date of this
29 section, motions to be adjudged a youthful offender shall be made to
30 the Youthful Offender Court Unit established pursuant to section 1 of
31 this act and all proceedings concerning the determination of that
32 motion, the adjudication of a youth as a youthful offender and the
33 disposition of such youth upon such adjudication shall be handled by
34 such unit.

35 (b) The Youthful Offender Court Unit may refer a youth adjudicated
36 a youthful offender to the Court Support Services Division for the
37 performance of an assessment of such youth to determine the needs of
38 such youth and the availability of community-based programs and
39 services to meet those needs. Based upon such assessment, the division
40 shall offer age-appropriate, community-based programs and services
41 for such youth which may include educational, vocational, mental
42 health and substance abuse programs and services.

43 (c) Any youth adjudicated a youthful offender who is sentenced to a
44 period of probation shall be supervised by a youthful offender
45 probation officer who shall have a caseload of not more than thirty
46 youths. Any youth adjudicated a youthful offender who is sentenced
47 to a term of imprisonment shall be placed in an age-appropriate
48 facility.

49 Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2004) The Chief Court Administrator
50 shall annually evaluate the demonstration project conducted pursuant
51 to section 1 of this act and, not later than January 1, 2006, January 1,
52 2007, and January 1, 2008, report the results of such evaluation and any
53 recommendations for legislation to the joint standing or select
54 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
55 relating to corrections and to the select committee of the General
56 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in
57 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

58 Sec. 5. (Effective July 1, 2004) The sum of \$250,000 per fiscal year shall
59 be transferred to an account to be established in the Judicial
60 Department for the purpose of the demonstration project conducted
61 pursuant to section 1 of this act, from the General Fund appropriation
62 for such fiscal year to each of the following departments: Judicial;
63 Children and Families; Mental Health and Addiction Services; and
64 Correction.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To prevent recidivism among youths aged sixteen and seventeen years old by creating a specialized court unit to handle their cases and offer them age-appropriate services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]