

Judiciary Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6669

AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILES AND MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT,
INVESTIGATIONS OF CERTAIN PENDING JUVENILE MATTERS AND

Title: REPORTING OF REQUESTS TO DETAIN ARRESTED JUVENILES.

Vote Date: 4/8/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/31/2021

File No.: 600

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Judiciary Committee

Rep. Travis Simms, 140th Dist.,
Rep. Jason Doucette, 13th Dist.
Rep. Christie M. Carpino, 32nd Dist.,
Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.
Rep. Devin R. Carney, 23rd Dist.,
Rep. Eleni Kavros DeGraw, 17th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This proposed legislation seeks to mitigate the number of car thefts committed by juveniles occurring in the state. It does so by increasing penalties for an adult who may coerce a minor into committing an act of car theft, permitting the use of GPS tracking devices to be used on juveniles awaiting adjudication, and by requiring the Judicial Branch to compile a report on the number of times a law enforcement officer request to detain a juvenile that is suspected of car theft.

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language adds stealing a firearm to the list of offenses that pose a risk to public safety in 46b-133(k).

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice supports this bill and states support for provisions that would increase punishments for adults who recruit juveniles to steal cars

because of their juvenile status and the lesser punishment faced, the section that would require the Judicial Branch to compile data on the request to retain juveniles, and section three, which would create a new statute to electronically monitor the location of juveniles charged with delinquency for motor vehicles. The Division does recommend a change to this language to ensure that any juvenile who removes their electronic tracking device will receive a referral to the local law enforcement agency to locate the juvenile and consider additional conditions of release in order to make up for a lack of existing statute in relation to tracking devices pre-adjudication.

State of Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Susan I. Hamilton opposes this bill and states opposition to part or all of sections 1-4. Regarding section 1, it's stated that an adult enticing a minor to commit a crime would become a class D felony, which the Division opposes and states that this would lead to another opportunity to charge a minor who may not have been the driver and there's no other applicable defense. For sections 2-4, it's stated that there are provisions in place to address the proposed changes in statute and that adding these would be duplicative and may violate due process rights for juveniles. The division does not state support or opposition for section 5 but states that it may be helpful to determine cases in which law enforcement members seek detention orders from judge at the time of an arrest.

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch does not support or oppose the policies put forth in this bill, but states concern with how such a policy would be implemented. Regarding section 3, it's stated that the Juvenile division does not currently use GPS devices and would therefore need additional time to implement this change. Further concern is stated regarding section 4, which would authorize the family court to complete investigations in juvenile delinquency matters, which is not something that the family court does. It's further stated regarding section 5 that requests for detention from law enforcement in juvenile cases are not recorded unless a judge approves of the request.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Southbury CT, Resident, Lauri Bates supports this bill and gives personal account of an experience with car theft.

Southington CT Town Council supports this bill and states that their goal as a town council is to protect their citizens and that enacting this bill will give them the proper resources to deter automotive related offenses.

CT Police Chiefs Association supports this bill and states that it would provide a solution to help get youth offenders the treatment they need. It's further stated that any increase in penalty will serve to deter automotive related crimes.

Town of Newington CT, Mayor, Beth A. DeBuono on behalf of the Newington Town Council supports this bill and states that the state needs to take responsibility and support law enforcement officials to create increased measures to prevent those accused from committing automotive related crimes again.

Curtiss Ryan Honda, President, Richard Foehrenbach supports this bill and gives a personal account of experience with car theft at their business.

Connecticut Council of Small Towns, Executive Director, Betsy Gara supports this bill and states support for providing local law enforcement officials with the tools and resources needed to address incidents of car theft and break-ins.

Town of Wethersfield, Mayor, Michael Rell supports this bill and states that the town is requesting that law enforcement and the courts have the sufficient tools and resources available to adequately hold perpetrators of car theft accountable.

CGA 27th House District, Rep. Gary Turco supports this bill and states that their district has been adversely affected by car theft and that this legislation will be an important step to mitigating the issue of car theft statewide. It's further stated that while the Representative does not support treating juveniles that commit these crimes as adults that other measures need to be put in place to facilitate the rehabilitation of those who commit these crimes.

CGA 8th Senate District, Sen. Kevin Witkos supports this bill and states that this bill would address the increase in car theft offenses seen throughout the state. It's further stated that while the Senator does not support a long prison sentence for juveniles who commit these crimes, the Senator does support the creation of program and services to offer intervention services to prevent offenders from reoffending.

The following members of the public support this bill. Many of those that testified gave personal accounts of an experience with car theft involving themselves or others.

6 Anonymous CT Residents

Rocky Hill CT, Resident, Victor Acca

CT Resident, Fran Adinolfi

CT Resident, Rick Aiello

Windsor CT, Resident, Dr. Linda S. Alexander

CT Resident, Debra Alling

Trumbull CT, Resident, Gary R. Anderson

Robert Anderson

CT Resident, Dennis Andrews

CT Resident, Paul Andrews

Enfield CT, Resident, Joseph J. Annis Jr.

Avon CT, Resident, Thomas Armstrong

CT Residents, Art and Karen

CT Resident, Mary Ann Attianese

CT Resident, Lynne Auché

CT Resident, Daniel Bailey

CT Resident, Justin Baldwin

Shelton CT, Resident, and City Engineer,

Rimas J. Balsys

CT Resident, Laurie Bani Essa

CT Resident, Jeff Bantle

CT Resident, Christopher Barrett

Madison CT, Resident, Scott Bass

Wilton CT, Resident, David J. Bauer

Stafford CT, Resident, Derek Bauer

Rocky Hill CT, Resident, Karen Bedlack

CT Resident, Bert Begin

CT Resident, Thomas Berchulski

CT Resident, Gary R. Bergeron

CT Resident, Marilyn Bjorklund

CT Resident, Sheila Borla

CT Resident, Frank Borres

CT Resident, Norman Boucher

Farmington and Madison CT, Resident,

Ken Boudreau

Waterbury CT, Former Resident, Richard

Bouffard

Canton CT, Resident, Laurie Bourque

Middlebury CT, Resident, Doreen

Bousaada

CT Resident, Donna Bouton

CT Resident, Chris Brown

Rocky Hill CT, Resident, George Brown

CT Resident, Harold Brown

CT Resident, Jerry Bruckner

CT Resident, Gary Brugnetti

CT Resident, Janet Buchanan

Bristol CT, Resident, Linda Buchiere

CT Resident, Neil Bukowski

CT Resident, Anna Buono
Weston CT, Resident, Michele Burke
Vernon CT, Resident, John Buxton
Burlington CT, Resident, Tom Calvella
CT Resident, Gina Campbell
CT Resident, Robert Cantor
CT Resident, Marie Capela-Campos
CT Resident, Terri Carmichael
Bethany CT, Resident, Adam Carrington
CT Resident, Iris Castro
CT Resident, Frederick Centrella
CT Resident, Ron Chaika
Glastonbury CT, Resident, Galina Chanduvi
CT Resident, Edward V. Charamut
CT Resident, Donna Chiulli
Farmington CT, Resident, Rev. Doug Christgau
Willington CT, Resident, Richard E. Claus
CT Resident, Kathy Clauss
CT Resident, Roy Cline
CT Resident, Katie Copeland
North Haven CT, Resident, Nick Coppola
CT Resident, Jody Cox
CT Resident, Rose Cruz
CT Resident, Joan Cummings
Southington CT, Resident, Kristen Curley
CT Resident, Debra Czarnecki
CT Resident, Tom D'Addario
West Granby CT, Resident, Ricky Daigle
CT Resident, Diane Dalton
Plainville CT, Resident, Brian Danko
CT Resident, Jeanette Davidson
CT Resident, Lisa Dean
Bethel CT, Resident, Robert Debacher
CT Resident, John Dee
Southington CT, Resident and Town Councilor, Mike Del Santo
Tolland CT, Resident, MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle
CT Resident, Linda Dellacamera
Stafford Springs CT, Resident, Dino DePellegrini
Wethersfield CT, Resident, Lorain Deramo
CT Resident, Vas Diakos
Norwalk CT, Resident, Tim Dineen
CT Resident, John DiSarro III
Westbrook CT, Resident, Martha DiVincenzo

CT Resident, Michael P. DiVito
Wethersfield CT, Resident, Mary Ellen Dombrowski
Bristol CT, Resident, William Dorsey Fuller
Avon CT, Resident, Michael Dropick
CT Resident, Bob Ducharme
CT Resident, June Danaher
CT Resident, Steve Dunn
Shelton CT, Resident, Cheryl Dziubina
Newington CT, Resident, Steve Eccles
Rocky Hill CT, Resident, John Emmanuel
Beacon Falls CT, Resident, Carl R. Erlingheuser
New York, NY, Resident, Peter F. Farinella
CT Resident, Bruce Farmer
Canton CT, Resident, Sarah Faulkner
South Glastonbury CT, Resident, Marilyn Ferguson
CT Resident, John J. Ferrante
East Haddam CT, Resident, Jack Fiora
CT Resident, Michael Fiora
Milford CT, Resident, Robert Fiore
Cheshire CT, Resident, Jim Flood
Berlin CT, Resident, John Flynn
Farmington CT, Resident, James Foote
CT Resident, Lauren Foote
CT Resident, Maryann Francischelli
CT Resident, Franny
Stamford CT, Resident, Joe Frattaroli
Bristol CT, Resident, Robert Gabor
Clinton CT, Resident, Elaine Godowsky
CT Resident, Richard Gallagher
CT Resident, Catherine Galligan
Watertown CT, Resident, Ted Gallucci
Woodbury CT, Resident, Mike Gannon
Durham CT, Resident, Donald Gates
Cheshire CT, Resident and Director of Parks and Recreation, John Gawlak
Madison CT, Resident, Richard Gedney
CT Resident, Thomas Goclowski
Canton CT, Resident and RTC Chairman, Arnold L. Goldman
CT Resident, Peter Goletz
Vernon CT, Resident, Margaret Gordon
Killingworth CT, Resident, Rita D. Gould
Groton CT, Resident, Mark Grader
Suffield CT, Resident, Regina Graziani
CT Resident, Peter Greenwood

Trumbull CT, Resident, MaryAnn Grygorcewicz
CT Resident, Jeff Guertin
CT Resident, Glenn Guggenheim
Avon CT, Resident, Laura Guzallis
CT Resident, Holly Hall
CT Resident, Julia Hamilton
Willington CT, Resident, Russ Hardgrove
CT Resident, Cathy Hartley
CT Resident, Shannon Harvill
CT Resident, Michael Haas
Prospect CT, Resident, Al Havican
Wethersfield CT, Resident, Christopher Healy
Fairfield CT, Resident, Kimberly Heyn
CT Resident, Richard Hines
Vernon CT, Resident, Keith Hodson
CT Resident, Al Horila
Avon CT, Resident, Mike Hornish
Granby CT, Resident, Carol Hulbert
CT Resident, Norma Ingram
CT Resident, Mike Ingrassia
CT Resident, Guy Iodice
CT Resident, Barbara Irwin
CT Resident, Robert Jacques
CT Resident, Larry Janesky
CT Resident, John
Ledyard CT, Resident, James Johnson
Weatogue CT, Resident, David Johnson
Ridgefield CT, Resident, Michael Johnston
CT Resident, Anne Johnson
CT Resident, Bonnie Karkowski
Shelton CT, Resident, Marieanne Kalotai
Fairfield CT, Resident, Constantina Karageorge
Hamden CT, Resident, Cheryl Kasprzycki
Newington CT, Resident, Colleen Kelly
CT Resident, Eileen Kenneally
CT Resident, Laura Klett
CT Resident, Marilyn Koback
Shelton CT, Resident, Peter Konieczny
Pleasant Valley CT, Resident, Cheryl B. Kornegay
Barkhamsted CT, Resident, John Kornegay
CT Resident, Ronald Koroscil
CT Resident, John Koster
CT Resident, John Kozloski
Avon CT, Resident, Debra Krauss

CT Resident, Ted Krol
Wallingford CT, Resident, Richard Krombel
CT Resident, Frederick Krompegal
Ellington CT, Resident, Audrey Kubas
Wallingford CT, Resident, C. Marcella Kurowski
CT Resident, Charlene Labruna
CT Resident, Gary J. Lafferty
CT Resident, Michelle Lambert
Burlington CT, Resident, John-Robert La Porta
Watertown CT, Resident, Ray Lecours
Danbury CT, Resident, Deborah Legg
Southington CT, Resident, Carolyn Legnani
CT Resident, Juliette Leith
Southington CT, Resident, Marcel Lessard
Avon CT, Resident, Lee Lester
Avon CT, Resident, Scott Lewis
Rocky Hill CT, Member of Town Council, Miriam Lifshitz-Theroux
Simsbury CT, Resident, Nicola Lightner
CT Resident, Linda
CT Resident, Stanton Lipson
Seymour CT, Resident, Susan Liscinsky
Middletown CT, Resident, Joan Liska
Prospect CT, Resident, Mark Lloret
Willington CT, Resident, Joshlyn Lucas-Nash
Oakville CT, Resident, Kenneth Lukowski
CT Resident, Peter Lundin
Eastford CT, Resident, Nick Lupacchino
Oakdale CT, Resident, Gary Lussier
Wethersfield CT, Resident, Thomas Mahar
CT Resident, Andrew Main
CT Resident, Monica Malo
CT Resident, Lou Manoni
CT Resident, James D. Mansell
Shelton CT, Resident, Paul Manzione
CT Resident, Linda Maresca
Hartland CT, Resident, Edward Marshall
Farmington CT, Resident, Peter Martin
Fairfield CT, Resident, George Masek
Willington CT, Resident, Sahri Masinda
CT Resident, Carol Matteo-Strachan
North Haven CT, Resident, Susan Maturro
CT Resident, Richard W. Mayhew
Middletown CT, Resident, Jim Mazzei
Essex CT, Resident, Edward McCaffrey

Durham CT, Resident, Jim McCandless
CT Resident, A T McGeary
Simsbury CT, Resident, Paul J. McKenna
Eat Hampton CT, Resident, Layne
McLennan
Vernon CT, Resident, Jean Merz
CT Resident, Bill Michalowski
CT Resident, Joe Mikula
CT Resident, Philip Milano
Higganum CT, Resident, Toni-Lynn Miles
Suffield CT, Resident, Don Miner
Trumbull CT, Resident, Marilyn Mitchell
CT Resident, Marty Moran
CT Resident, Dennis Moriarty
Stamford CT, Resident, Anna Moschella
CT Resident, Marilyn Mullen
CT Resident, Joyce Mundt
Torrington CT, Resident, Fran Murack
Chester CT, Resident, Bill Myers
CT Resident, Andrew Netro
Willington CT, Resident, Elaine Newcomb
Trumbull CT, Resident, Dan Nichols
North Haven CT, Resident, Lynne Nielsen
CT Resident, Dick Novia
CT Resident, Patricia O'Brien
Simsbury CT, Resident, Maria O'Donnell
CT Resident, William O'Neill
CT Resident, Peter Ohotnicky
CT Resident, Karen Oko
CT Resident, Joseph Oraziatti
CT Resident, Linda Osden
Watertown CT, Resident, Dave Overbaugh
Jr.
Coventry CT, Resident, Daniel Pace
CT Resident, John Palmieri
CT Resident, John Paris
CT Resident, Megan Partyka-Dennis
CT Resident, Barbara Pasha
Hamden CT, Resident, Sharon Pask
CT Resident, Pat J.
East Granby CT, Resident, Tom E. Paulus
CT Resident, Quentin Pearson
Farmington CT, Resident, Lynn Pensiero
Hamden CT, Resident, Laura Perkins
Davidson
CT Resident, Geraldine Peterson
CT Resident, Raphael Petrini
CT Resident, Karen Phelan
Ashford CT, Resident, John Phillips

Waterbury CT, Resident, Dana Place
North Haven CT, Resident, Frank
Podgwaite
Old Saybrook CT, Resident, Steven Pope
CT Resident, Gil Pratt
Beacon Falls CT, Resident, Ruta Pratt
Willington CT, Residents, Peter and
Pamela Puhlick
CT Resident, Mary Ann Raph
CT Resident, Mary Rawson
CT Resident, Jim Reilly
Berlin CT, Resident, Adam Renfrew
CT Resident, Debbie Reynolds
CT Resident, Lourdes Rhodes
CT Resident, Michael Rinaldi
CT Resident, Nora Robbins
CT Resident, Jen Roberts
Wallingford CT, Resident, Ronald D.
Roberts
CT Resident, Susan Roberts
CT Resident, Roland Robillard
CT Resident, Marc Rogg
CT Resident, Heinz D. Rosskothan
South Windsor CT, Resident, Bill Rotavera
CT Resident, Jennifer Rottkamp
New Hartford CT, Resident, Judy Ruhm
CT Resident, John M. Russo DMD
Branford CT, Resident, Jason Sabatino
CT Resident, William Sangster
Ashford CT, Resident, Jim and Arlene
Schaffer
CT Resident, Charles E. Schleich
Hebron CT, Residents, Louis and Heidi
Schluntz
New Fairfield CT, Resident, Eric
Schonenberg
CT Resident, Kathleen Schubert
Southbury CT, Resident, Ken Schutte
CT Resident, Frank Sessa
CT Resident, Katharine Shagoury
CT Resident, Bonnie Shultz
CT Resident, Glynis Simmons
CT Resident, Linda Simmons
CT Resident, Paul E. Simpson
CT Resident, Dominika Smaga
Stratford CT, Resident, Leanne Small
Beacon Falls CT, Resident, Joann Smith
Overby
CT Resident, Albert J. Smith

East Hartland CT, Resident, Ellen G. Smith
CT Resident, Michael Snedeker
Clinton CT, Resident, Peter E. Snyder
CT Resident, Isais Sostre
New Hartford CT, Resident, Isabella
Squicciarini Esq.
CT Resident, Paul Standish
Norwich CT, Resident, Klaus Stankiewicz
Avon CT, Resident, Robert Starr
CT Resident, John Stelma
CT Resident, Stephen Stewart
Shelton CT, Resident, Elicia A. Sullivan
Wallingford CT, Residents, Dave and
Jackie Taglianetti
CT Resident, Marion Terry
CT Resident, Guy Tirendi
CT Resident, James A. Tomko
CT Resident, Evangelynn Toolan
CT Resident, Doris Torok
CT Resident, Tracey
Brookfield CT, Resident, Joseph Trench Jr.
Southbury CT, Resident, John Tucker
Union CT, Resident, Dean Upson
Milford CT, Resident, Lori Utzler
CT Resident, Joseph Valbona
CT Resident, Kathryn Van Cleve Kuhns
Windsor CT, Resident, Michele Vannelli
CT Resident, Dante Vasi
Killingworth CT, Resident, Guy J. Vecchitto
CT Resident, Joe Veneziano
Granby CT, Resident, Kenneth Verdecchia
CT Resident, Claudette Volage
East Hampton, CT, Resident Alison Walck
CT Resident, Derek Waller
Beacon Falls CT, Resident, Ann Walsh
CT Resident, Barbara Waterfield
Avon CT, Resident, Lillian Weigel
Shelton CT, Resident, Janet Wheeler
Ellington CT, Resident, Janet Wieliczka
CT Resident, Lori Wilcox
Vernon CT, Resident, Forrest Wilks
Ashford CT, Resident, Dr. Richard S.
Williams
Madison CT, Resident, Francoise Williams
CT Resident, Loretta Wilson
Somers CT, Resident, R. Wilson
CT Resident, Denise Wojtyna
Simsbury CT, Resident, Jennifer Wood
CT Resident, Elizabeth G. Zietz

CT Resident, Scott Zinkerman
Ridgefield CT, Resident, Laura Zolotorofe
Wethersfield CT, Resident, Cindy Zuerblis
CT Resident, Joan Zurolo
Terryville CT, Resident, Andrew Zwick
CT Resident, Edward Zwingman

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

City of Middletown, Youth Services Coordinator, Justin Carbonella MPA expresses thoughts on this bill and states that while there should be a mechanism to repair harm to victims of car theft that any law should not damage the future of young perpetrators. It's further stated that methods of restorative justice should be used when handling any punishments handed down to youth perpetrators.

Center for Children's Advocacy, Executive Director, Martha Stone J.D., and TeamChild Youth Justice Project, Director, Marisa Halm J.D. oppose this bill and state that measures of restorative justice and positive programming should be prioritized over punishment for youths who are accused of motor vehicle crimes.

Stop Solitary CT, Member of the Steering Committee, Barbara Fair opposes this bill and states that it would not solve the issue of car thefts.

ACLU CT, Interim Senior Policy Counsel, Kelly McConney Moore opposes this bill and states that focus should go towards offering services and support for juveniles who are accused of car theft rather than punitive measures. It's further stated that car thefts have declined in recent years and that this may be a "solution in search of a problem".

Connecticut Justice Alliance, Executive Director, Christina Quaranta opposes this bill and states that any bill attempting to stop the rise in car thefts should look to invest in communities and work towards rehabilitation rather than focusing on punitive measures.

Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, President, Frank J. Riccio II opposes this bill and states that the Association agrees with the Office of the Chief Public Defender's testimony in opposition to the punitive measures of this bill.

The following members of the public oppose this bill. The primary reason for opposition stated was a disagreement regarding the increased penalties for juveniles, and specifically with the provision that would charge them as adults for car theft related crimes

Stamford CT, Resident, Michelle Abt
Avon CT, Resident, Frances Argay
Weatogue CT, Resident, Melanie Finn-Scofield
CT Resident, Barbara Kaminsky
CT Resident, B. Mark

CT Resident, Bill Mikulewicz
Weatogue CT, Resident, Barry Rahmy
CT Resident, Jacob R. Raitt
CT Resident, Irma Rappaport
Glastonbury CT, Resident, Paul Szymonik
Ashford CT, Resident, Kurt van Heiningen

The following members of the public oppose this bill, and the primary reason given is that the bill does not take strong enough measures to penalize juvenile car theft:

Avon CT, Resident, Scott Gill
CT Resident, Lori Macgowan
Avon CT, Resident, Kathleen Randall

Reported by: Justin Kaiser

Date: 4/27/2021

