



March 17, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes a juvenile court to impose a blended sentence on a child 16 years of age or older for a juvenile offense that would be a Class A, B, or C felony if committed by an adult.

Defines “blended sentencing” as a combination of any disposition otherwise provided for juveniles and a period of adult probation to be served after the child turns 18 years of age and which ends on or before the child’s 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – Due to multiple unknow factors, the extent and timing of any decrease in state incarceration expenditures cannot be reasonably determined.**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-131, if a child is found to be delinquent, a juvenile court is authorized to impose any of the following orders of disposition best suited to the child’s treatment, rehabilitation and welfare, including:
  - Transfer of temporary legal custody or granting of permanent guardianship to any relative or other individual with a relationship with the child who is found by the court to be qualified to receive and care for the child;
  - Placing the child on probation under the supervision of the probation officer of the court or the Department of Children’s Services (DCS);
  - Committing the child to the DCS, which commitment shall not extend past the child’s 19<sup>th</sup> birthday; or
  - Transfer of the child to adult court to stand trial as an adult.
- The proposed legislation authorizes a juvenile court to impose a blended sentence of any of the dispositions stated above and a period of adult probation to be served after the child turns 18 years old and which ends on or before the child’s 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, for a child 16 years of age or older adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a Class A, B, or C felony if committed by an adult.
- The proposed legislation may lead to a decrease in state expenditures associated with a decrease in the number of juveniles committed to the custody of the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) until the age of 19, due to serving a blended sentence of adult probation beginning at age 18 years old.

- The proposed legislation may lead to an increase in the number of individuals serving probation.
- For any juvenile offender sentenced to serve out the remainder of any blended sentence on adult probation, there will be a decrease in state incarceration expenditures; however, the extent of any decrease in state expenditures will be dependent upon the number of juvenile offenders a court imposes a blended sentence and the terms of the blended sentence imposed.
- Due to multiple unknown factors, the extent and timing of any decrease in state incarceration expenditures cannot reasonably be determined.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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