

CCS SCS SB 36 -- JUVENILE CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

This bill establishes Jonathan's Law, which requires a child to be convicted in a court of general jurisdiction in order for the jurisdiction of the juvenile court over that child to forever terminate for an act that would be a violation of a state law or municipal ordinance.

Currently, if a child is younger than 17 years of age and has been convicted in a court of general jurisdiction, the court is allowed to invoke dual jurisdiction of both the criminal and juvenile codes. The bill raises the age to younger than 17 years and six months of age and requires the court to consider dual jurisdiction.

If the Division of Youth Services within the Department of Social Services agrees to accept a youth and the court does not impose a juvenile disposition, the court must make findings on the record as to why the division was not appropriate for an offender prior to imposing the adult criminal sentence.