

HB 55: Juvenile Justice Services Amendments

This bill increases access to voluntary services for youth leaving Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) care up to age 25. This preventative investment will support better outcomes for youth exiting JJS care, and avoid the higher cost of secure care.

Investing in Positive Outcomes for Youth:

Continues Behavioral Health Treatment:

Youth who exit JJS care are more likely than their peers to have substance abuse or mental health challenges into young adulthood.

Decreases Cost of Returning to Custody:

Former JJS youth are more likely to return to custody without ongoing support at a significant expense to taxpayers and community safety.

Prevents Perpetual Involvement in Justice System:

Extending voluntary support until age 25 allows time for brain development and prevents entry into the adult criminal system.

Ready to Implement:

Existing staff coordinate voluntary critical services for older, vulnerable youth leaving the juvenile justice system as they change their course and attempt to navigate a successful transition to adulthood and mature adolescent brain development.

\$800

daily cost of service in secure care

13.4%

of youth leaving JJS Secure Care reoffend and return to care in the first 90 days

40.7%

of youth leaving JJS Secure Care reoffend and return to care within the first year

TWO-YEAR PILOT RESULTS: 10 youth who exited JJS care chose ongoing voluntary services for a **total cost of less than \$17,000**. The vast majority of these services were for mental health. **NONE returned to custody, saving \$500,000** if they had all returned for the average 3 months in JJS custody.