

**Senate Bill No. 384**

(By Senators Cookman, Stollings, Unger, Plymale and Palumbo)

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[Introduced February 27, 2013; referred to the Committee on the  
Judiciary.]  
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A BILL to amend and reenact §49-5-2 of the Code of West Virginia,  
1931, as amended, relating to juvenile proceedings; and  
increasing the number of certified legal education credits  
required to serve as a court-appointed attorney in juvenile  
cases.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §49-5-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 5. JUVENILE PROCEEDINGS.**

**§49-5-2. Juvenile jurisdiction of circuit courts, magistrate  
courts and municipal courts; Constitutional  
guarantees; hearings; evidence and transcripts.**

(a) The circuit court has original jurisdiction of proceedings  
brought under this article.

1           (b) If during a criminal proceeding in any court it is  
2 ascertained or appears that the defendant is under the age of  
3 nineteen years and was under the age of eighteen years at the time  
4 of the alleged offense, the matter shall be immediately certified  
5 to the juvenile jurisdiction of the circuit court. The circuit  
6 court shall assume jurisdiction of the case in the same manner as  
7 cases which are originally instituted in the circuit court by  
8 petition.

9           (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article,  
10 magistrate courts have concurrent juvenile jurisdiction with the  
11 circuit court for a violation of a traffic law of West Virginia,  
12 for a violation of section nine, article six, chapter sixty,  
13 section three or section four, article nine-a, chapter sixteen, or  
14 section nineteen, article sixteen, chapter eleven of this code, or  
15 for any violation of chapter twenty of this code. Juveniles are  
16 liable for punishment for violations of these laws in the same  
17 manner as adults except that magistrate courts have no jurisdiction  
18 to impose a sentence of incarceration for the violation of these  
19 laws.

20           (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article,  
21 municipal courts have concurrent juvenile jurisdiction with the  
22 circuit court for a violation of any municipal ordinance regulating  
23 traffic, for any municipal curfew ordinance which is enforceable or  
24 for any municipal ordinance regulating or prohibiting public

1 intoxication, drinking or possessing alcoholic liquor or  
2 nonintoxicating beer in public places, any other act prohibited by  
3 section nine, article six, chapter sixty or section nineteen,  
4 article sixteen, chapter eleven of this code or underage possession  
5 or use of tobacco or tobacco products, as provided in article nine-  
6 a, chapter sixteen of this code. Municipal courts may impose the  
7 same punishment for these violations as a circuit court exercising  
8 its juvenile jurisdiction could properly impose, except that  
9 municipal courts have no jurisdiction to impose a sentence of  
10 incarceration for the violation of these laws.

11 (e) A juvenile may be brought before the circuit court for  
12 proceedings under this article only by the following means:

13 (1) By a juvenile petition requesting that the juvenile be  
14 adjudicated as a status offender or a juvenile delinquent; or

15 (2) By certification or transfer to the juvenile jurisdiction  
16 of the circuit court from the criminal jurisdiction of the circuit  
17 court, from any foreign court, or from any magistrate court or  
18 municipal court in West Virginia.

19 (f) If a juvenile commits an act which would be a crime if  
20 committed by an adult, and the juvenile is adjudicated delinquent  
21 for that act, the jurisdiction of the court which adjudged the  
22 juvenile delinquent continues until the juvenile becomes twenty-one  
23 years of age. The court has the same power over that person that  
24 it had before he or she became an adult, and has the further power

1 to sentence that person to a term of incarceration: *Provided, That*  
2 any such term of incarceration may not exceed six months. This  
3 authority does not preclude the court from exercising criminal  
4 jurisdiction over that person if he or she violates the law after  
5 becoming an adult or if the proceedings have been transferred to  
6 the court's criminal jurisdiction pursuant to section ten of this  
7 article.

8 (g) A juvenile is entitled to be admitted to bail or  
9 recognizance in the same manner as an adult and shall be afforded  
10 the protection guaranteed by Article III of the West Virginia  
11 Constitution.

12 (h) A juvenile has the right to be effectively represented by  
13 counsel at all stages of proceedings under the provisions of this  
14 article. If the juvenile or the juvenile's parent or custodian  
15 executes an affidavit showing that the juvenile cannot afford an  
16 attorney, the court shall appoint an attorney, who shall be paid in  
17 accordance with article twenty-one, chapter twenty-nine of this  
18 code. Effective, July 1, 2013, any attorney who represents  
19 juveniles shall complete eight hours of continuing education every  
20 reporting period, or every two years, in topics specifically  
21 related to juvenile proceedings.

22 (i) In all proceedings under this article, the juvenile shall  
23 be afforded a meaningful opportunity to be heard. This includes  
24 the opportunity to testify and to present and cross-examine

1 witnesses. The general public shall be excluded from all  
2 proceedings under this article except that persons whose presence  
3 is requested by the parties and other persons whom the circuit  
4 court determines have a legitimate interest in the proceedings may  
5 attend: *Provided*, That in cases in which a juvenile is accused of  
6 committing what would be a felony if the juvenile were an adult, an  
7 alleged victim or his or her representative may attend any related  
8 juvenile proceedings, at the discretion of the presiding judicial  
9 officer: *Provided, however*, That in any case in which the alleged  
10 victim is a juvenile, he or she may be accompanied by his or her  
11 parents or representative, at the discretion of the presiding  
12 judicial officer.

13 (j) At all adjudicatory hearings held under this article, all  
14 procedural rights afforded to adults in criminal proceedings shall  
15 be afforded the juvenile unless specifically provided otherwise in  
16 this chapter.

17 (k) At all adjudicatory hearings held under this article, the  
18 rules of evidence applicable in criminal cases apply, including the  
19 rule against written reports based upon hearsay.

20 (l) Except for *res gestae*, extrajudicial statements made by a  
21 juvenile who has not attained fourteen years of age to law-  
22 enforcement officials or while in custody are not admissible unless  
23 those statements were made in the presence of the juvenile's  
24 counsel. Except for *res gestae*, extrajudicial statements made by

1 a juvenile who has not attained sixteen years of age but who is at  
2 least fourteen years of age to law-enforcement officers or while in  
3 custody, are not admissible unless made in the presence of the  
4 juvenile's counsel or made in the presence of, and with the consent  
5 of, the juvenile's parent or custodian, and the parent or custodian  
6 has been fully informed regarding the juvenile's right to a prompt  
7 detention hearing, the juvenile's right to counsel, including  
8 appointed counsel if the juvenile cannot afford counsel, and the  
9 juvenile's privilege against self-incrimination.

10 (m) A transcript or recording shall be made of all transfer,  
11 adjudicatory and dispositional hearings held in circuit court. At  
12 the conclusion of each of these hearings, the circuit court shall  
13 make findings of fact and conclusions of law, both of which shall  
14 appear on the record. The court reporter shall furnish a  
15 transcript of the proceedings at no charge to any indigent juvenile  
16 who seeks review of any proceeding under this article if an  
17 affidavit is filed stating that neither the juvenile nor the  
18 juvenile's parents or custodian have the ability to pay for the  
19 transcript.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the number of certified legal education credits required to serve as a court appointed attorney in juvenile cases.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would

be added.