

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2483

BY DELEGATES ELDRIDGE, BUTLER, ROHRBACH, R.

MILLER, SOBONYA AND IAQUINTA

[Introduced February 15, 2017; Referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §49-4-720 and §49-4-722 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
 2 amended, all relating to requiring the Division of Juvenile Services to transfer to a
 3 correctional facility or regional jail any juvenile in its custody that has been transferred to
 4 adult jurisdiction of the circuit court and who reaches his or her eighteenth birthday;
 5 requiring transfer of juvenile in adult jurisdiction upon reaching eighteen years of age if he
 6 or she has either been convicted or is in a pretrial status; directing the Division of Juvenile
 7 Services to notify the circuit court of a juvenile reaching the age of eighteen years of age;
 8 authorizing the circuit court to conduct a hearing as to alternative placement; mandating
 9 that the position of victim be taken under consideration by the court in considering
 10 disposition or alternative placement; prohibiting juveniles that commit an adult offense
 11 while under the custody of the Division of Juvenile Services from returning back to the
 12 placement in a juvenile facility if the juvenile has attained the age of eighteen years; and
 13 requiring the court to conduct a hearing as to placement of a juvenile that has turned
 14 eighteen years of age and is remanded back to the custody of the Division of Juvenile
 15 Services after completion of an adult sentence.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §49-4-720 and §49-4-722 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be
 2 amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 4. COURT ACTIONS.

§49-4-720. Prohibition on committing juveniles to adult facilities. ~~copy provided to juvenile~~

1 (a) No juvenile, including one who has been transferred to criminal jurisdiction of the court,
 2 ~~shall~~ may be detained or confined in any institution in which he or she has contact with or comes
 3 within sight or sound of any adult persons incarcerated because they have been convicted of a
 4 crime or are awaiting trial on criminal charges or with the security staff (including management)
 5 or direct-care staff of a jail or locked facility for adults.

6 (b) No child who has been convicted of an offense under the adult jurisdiction of the circuit

7 court ~~shall~~ may be held in custody in a correctional facility of this state while under the age of
8 eighteen years. The Division of Juvenile Services shall ~~be responsible for notifying~~ notify the
9 sentencing court within forty-five days of the child's eighteenth birthday that the child will be
10 turning eighteen years of age. ~~Within ten days of the child's~~ Upon the child reaching his or her
11 eighteenth birthday, the court shall transfer the offender to an adult correctional facility or to any
12 other disposition the court ~~deems~~ considers appropriate for adult offenders. ~~Notwithstanding any~~
13 ~~other provision of this code to the contrary, prior to the transfer the child shall be returned to the~~
14 ~~sentencing court for the purpose of reconsideration and modification of the imposed sentence,~~
15 ~~which shall be based upon a review of all records and relevant information relating to the child's~~
16 ~~rehabilitation since his or her conviction under the adult jurisdiction of the court.~~ The sentencing
17 court, on motion of any party or its own, may conduct a hearing to determine whether the child
18 that has been transferred to adult jurisdiction and turned eighteen years of age shall remain in the
19 adult correctional facility or regional jail or if another disposition or pretrial placement available to
20 adult offenders is appropriate and available: *Provided*, That the court may not remand a child
21 having reached the age of eighteen years to a juvenile facility or placement with other juveniles.

22 (c) In any hearing conducted by the court under this section, the victim, if any, of the
23 offender's convicted or charged crime shall be invited to attend the hearing and the victim's
24 position shall be given due consideration by the court in deciding to continue placement in an
25 adult facility or any other alternative disposition or pretrial placement. The court may accept the
26 position of the victim from a victim's designee if the victim is deceased, lacks capacity, a minor or
27 for any other reason considered appropriate or warranted by the court.

§49-4-722. Conviction for offense while in custody.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person who is eighteen
2 years of age or older who is convicted as an adult of an offense that he or she committed while
3 in the custody of the Division of Juvenile Services and who is therefore sentenced to a regional
4 jail or state correctional facility for the offense may not be returned to the custody of the division

5 upon the completion of his or her adult sentence. ~~until a hearing is held before the court which~~
6 ~~committed the person to the custody of the Division of Juvenile Services at which hearing the~~
7 ~~division may present any objections it may have to return the person to its custody. If the division~~
8 ~~does object and the court overrules the division's objections, it shall make specific written findings~~
9 ~~as to its rationale for overruling the objections.~~

10 (b) ~~No person who is eighteen years of age or older who is convicted as an adult of a~~
11 ~~felony crime of violence against the person while in the custody of the Division of Juvenile~~
12 ~~Services be returned to the custody of the Division of Juvenile Services upon completion of his or~~
13 ~~her adult sentence~~ Prior to completion of the adult sentence specified in subsection (a), the circuit
14 court having jurisdiction over the underlying juvenile matter shall conduct a hearing to determine
15 whether the child that has turned eighteen years of age shall remain in the regional jail during
16 pendency of the underlying juvenile matter or if another disposition or pretrial placement is
17 appropriate and available: *Provided*, That the court may not remand a child having reached the
18 age of eighteen years to a juvenile facility or placement during the pendency of the underlying
19 juvenile matter.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Division of Juvenile Services to transfer to a correctional facility or regional jail any juvenile in its custody that has been transferred to adult jurisdiction of the circuit court and who reaches his or her eighteenth birthday. The bill requires transfer of juvenile in adult jurisdiction upon reaching eighteen years of age if he or she has either been convicted or is in a pretrial status and directs the Division of Juvenile Services to notify the circuit court of the age of a juvenile reaching the age of eighteen years of age. The bill authorizes the circuit court to conduct a hearing as to alternative placement and mandates that the position of victim be taken under consideration by the court in determining disposition or alternative placement. The bill prohibits juveniles that commit an adult offense while under the custody of the Division of Juvenile Services from returning back to the placement in a juvenile facility if the juvenile has attained the age of eighteen years. Finally, the bill requires the court to conduct a hearing as to placement of a juvenile that has turned eighteen years of age and is remanded back to the custody of the Division of Juvenile Services after completion of an adult sentence.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.