



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1057**

### **SENATE BILL NO. 2586**

**By Norris, Overbey**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1960

By Camper, Turner, Gilmore, Cooper, Fitzhugh, Parkinson, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 8 and Title 37, relative to juvenile justice.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Juvenile Justice Realignment Act."

SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby created a task force to study new approaches to the administration of juvenile justice, which may include the creation of a department of juvenile justice, the mission of which would be the treatment and rehabilitation of the state's juvenile offenders.

(b) The members of the task force shall be as follows:

(1) The following members shall be appointed by the speaker of the senate:

(A) Five (5) members of the public, who have experience or interest in children's issues, including, but not limited to, teachers, counselors, community leaders, doctors, nonprofit organizers, and attorneys; and

(B) Two (2) members of the senate;

(2) The following members shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives:

(A) Five (5) members of the public, who have experience or interest in children's issues, including, but not limited to, teachers, counselors, community leaders, doctors, nonprofit organizers, and attorneys; and

(B) Two (2) members of the house of representatives; and

(3) The following members who shall serve as ex officio members:

(A) The commissioner of children's services, or the commissioner's designee;

(B) The commissioner of finance and administration, or the commissioner's designee;

(C) The commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services, or the commissioner's designee;

(D) The administrative director of the administrative office of the courts, or the director's designee;

(E) The comptroller, or the comptroller's designee;

(F) The executive director of the commission on children and youth, or the director's designee; and

(G) The president of the council of juvenile and family court judges, or the president's designee.

(c) The longest serving legislative member of the task force shall call the first meeting of the task force, at which time the task force shall elect a chair. All members of the task force shall serve as such without compensation, but they shall be allotted necessary traveling and other appropriate expenses while engaged in the work of or for the task force. The task force shall be administratively attached to the comptroller's office.

(d) The task force shall study the implementation of new approaches to the administration of juvenile justice with regard to the following goals:

(1) The protection of the public by reclaiming juveniles through prevention, community programs, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment possible;

(2) The provision of custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are in state custody, on probation, or in community placement for a criminal offense, status offense, or juvenile act;

(3) The prevention of future juvenile crime and delinquency;

(4) The need for balancing accountability and public safety, while also preserving the rights of youth;

(5) The perception in many communities of a school-to-prison pipeline; and

(6) The prevalence of mental health issues among youth who are in the custody of the state.

(e) On or before January 15, 2017, the task force shall provide a recommendation and report for new approaches to the administration of juvenile justice to the council of juvenile and family court judges. The council shall review the report and recommendations and forward the report and recommendations to the speakers of the house of representatives and senate and the governor, with any comments the council may have. Upon receipt of the report and recommendation by the speakers and governor, the task force shall cease to exist.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2586

PASSED: April 21, 2016

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR