

## Reform Criminal Justice

### "Raise the Age"/Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

**Original Bill:** [HB1242](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 1242    **Sponsor:** Rep. David Evans (

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to juvenile court proceedings.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 S - Reported to the Senate and read first time

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**Original Bill:** [HB1293](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Shamed Doga

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to the certification of juveniles for trial as an adult.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/25/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB440](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washi

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to juvenile detention.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/06/2021 S - Voted Do Pass as substituted - Senate-Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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**Original Bill:** [SB446](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washi

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to the certification of juveniles for trial as an adult.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/25/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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## Alternative Sentencing for Caregivers

**Original Bill:** [HB531](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. David Evans (

**Description:** Changes the law regarding probation.

**Position Statement:** Support: In keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, judges should have discretion to sentence nonviolent offenders to local programs that allow offenders to remain in the community and care for their children rather than prison terms that result in children being placed in foster care. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/11/2021 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight

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## Early Parole/Older Inmates

**Original Bill:** [HB277](#)      **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 277      **Sponsor:** Rep. Tom Hannegan

**Description:** Authorizes the early parole of certain offenders over the age of sixty-five.

**Position Statement:** Support: Older inmates who have served much of their sentence merit a parole hearing to see if they are rehabilitated and can re-enter society. In A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice (2000), the Catholic Bishops state: "We believe that both victims and offender are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law." 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/24/2021 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight

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## Juvenile Sentence Review

**Original Bill:** [HB1131](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Peter Merideth

**Description:** Specifies the calculation for parole eligibility of minors.

**Position Statement:** Support: Juvenile offenders sentenced as adults to prison should be afforded a reasonable opportunity for parole after a term of years that recognizes their immature developmental state at the time of the offense. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/15/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [HB636](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Nick Schroer (

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to sentence review for certain persons.

**Position Statement:** Support: Juvenile offenders sentenced as adults to prison should be afforded a reasonable opportunity for parole after a term of years that recognizes their immature developmental state at the time of the offense. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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## Requiring Mandatory Minimums

**Original Bill:** [HB1194](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Bennie Cook (

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Mandatory minimum sentences replace a judge's discretion in sentencing with rigid formulas, which do not always serve the purposes of punishment for crimes. Adding additional offenses for which minimum sentences must be given moves Missouri in the wrong direction and places additional pressure on Missouri's already overcrowded prisons. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/19/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB75](#)

**Amended Bill:**

**Sponsor:** Sen. Jason Bean (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Mandatory minimum sentences replace a judge's discretion in sentencing with rigid formulas, which do not always serve the purposes of punishment for crimes. Adding additional offenses for which minimum sentences must be given moves Missouri in the wrong direction and places additional pressure on Missouri's already overcrowded prisons. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/14/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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### Work Opportunities for Prior Offenders

**Original Bill:** [HB316](#)

**Amended Bill:**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Cheri Toalson

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to certain persons found guilty of criminal offenses.

**Position Statement:** Support: Offenders should be given a fair opportunity for work after serving their sentences without being burdened by limitations on employment opportunities upon release. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 04/07/2021 H - Placed on Informal Calendar

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