

HB 1242 -- JUVENILE COURT PROCEEDINGS

SPONSOR: Evans

This bill specifies that, for the purposes of Chapter 211, RSMo, Section 221.044, and original jurisdiction of the juvenile court, if a person was considered an adult when he or she allegedly violated a state law or municipal ordinance, he or she will not later be considered a child. Additionally, under current law, no court will require a child to remain in the custody of the Division of Youth Services past the child's 18th birthday. This bill changes that provision so that a child can remain in the custody of the Division of Youth Services until the child's 19th birthday.

There is currently a state "Juvenile Justice Preservation Fund", which exists in the State Treasury. This bill changes that so there is a Juvenile Justice Preservation Fund in each county's circuit court, and the purpose of this fund is to implement and maintain the expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction to 18 years of age. The surcharge collected under the section will be payable to the county circuit court rather than to the State Treasury. Funds currently held by the State Treasurer in the Fund must be payable and revert to the circuit court's fund in the county of origination. Expenditures from the individual county juvenile justice funds will be made at the discretion of the juvenile department for the circuit court and must be used for the sole purpose of implementing and maintaining the expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction.

Lastly, the bill specifies that new treatment services expanding services from 17 years of age to 18 will be administered by the Division of Youth Services and the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services.

This bill has an emergency clause.