

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Judiciary

This bill specifies that, for the purposes of Chapter 211, RSMo, Section 221.044, and the original jurisdiction of the juvenile court, if a person was considered an adult when the alleged offense or violation was committed, 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 office for the circuit court and must be used for the sole purpose of implementing and maintaining the expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction.

The bill states that, to further promote the best interests of the children of Missouri, money in the fund will not be used to replace or reduce the responsibilities of either the counties or the state to provide funding for existing and new juvenile treatment services.

Lastly, the bill specifies that, starting January 1, 2022, each court reporter for a circuit judge will receive an annual salary based upon his or her cumulative years of service as a court reporter with a circuit court of this state, based upon a schedule provided in the bill.

This bill has an emergency clause for the provisions related to juvenile justice.