



Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 834, "AN ACT TO MODIFY THE DEFINITION OF DELINQUENT JUVENILE, TO MODIFY THE TRANSFER PROCESS FOR INDICTED JUVENILE CASES, TO CREATE A NEW PROCESS TO REMOVE A CASE TO JUVENILE COURT, TO MAKE CHANGES TO SCHOOL USE OF INFORMATION, TO MAKE SECURE CUSTODY HEARING CHANGES, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS, TO MAKE CHANGES TO CERTAIN DISPOSITIONAL ALTERNATIVES, AND TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR AN ADULT TO SOLICIT A MINOR TO COMMIT A CRIME AND TO MODIFY THE NUMBER OF DAYS FOR REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY A PROSECUTOR."

Most violent crimes, even when committed by teenagers, should be handled in adult court. However, there are cases where sentences would be more effective and appropriate to the severity of the crime for teenagers if they were handled in juvenile court, making communities safer. This bill makes this important option highly unlikely and begins to erode our bipartisan "Raise the Age" law we agreed to four years ago. While a number of Senators worked to make this legislation better than the original bill, I remain concerned that this new law would keep some children from getting treatment they need while making communities less safe. Instead, the legislature should invest significantly more in our juvenile justice system to ensure resources are available to help prevent crimes and appropriately deal with children who break the law.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House on this the 14th day of June 2024, at 4:59 pm for reconsideration by that body.

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READ
JUN 17 2024
Jann White

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6/14/24 4:59pm
Amy Mann