



HOUSE BILL 483: Juvenile Justice Legislative Proposals.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 30, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Davis, Greene, Carson Smith	Prepared by:	Robert Ryan
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 483 would make several changes to the laws related to the juvenile justice system as recommended by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Public Safety (The "Division").*

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

Part I

G.S. 7B-2510, provides the laws governing juveniles who are placed on probation after adjudication of an offense. The court may impose conditions of probation that are related to the needs of the juvenile and are reasonably necessary to ensure that the juvenile lead a law-abiding life. The initial term of probation is one year, however the term can be extended to an additional one year, after notice and a hearing, if the court finds that the extension is necessary.

G.S. 7B-2511, provides that at any time a juvenile is on probation the court may terminate probation by written order upon finding that there is no further need for supervision. The court may make this finding while the juvenile is present or not present, at the discretion of the court. There is no express requirement that a victim is notified about this action.

G.S. 7B-2514, provides the laws governing juveniles placed on post-release supervision after serving a term of confinement. The post release supervision plan developed must require a minimum of 90 days on post-release supervision, but cannot require more than one year of post-release supervision.

Section 1(a) would modify G.S. 7B-2510 to allow a court, after notice and a hearing, to extend the term of probation for a juvenile adjudicated of an offense that would be a Class A, B1, or B2 felony if committed by an adult, for additional periods, not to exceed a total of three years.

Section 1(b) would modify G.S. 7B-2511 to require that if a case involved a victim who has requested to be notified of court proceedings, then the court must provide notice to the victim and an opportunity to be heard before entering an order terminating the period of probation.

Section 1(c) would modify G.S. 7B-2514 to require that if a juvenile was adjudicated of an offense that would be a Class A, B1, B2, or C felony if committed by an adult, then the term of post-release supervision must be three years. G.S. 7B-2514 would also be modified to clarify that a victim of a Class A, B1, B2, or C felony must be notified before a court issues an order terminating the period of post-release supervision.

Part II

G.S. 7B-1903 contains the criteria for a court to issue a nonsecure or secure custody order for a juvenile who has committed an offense.

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Section 2 would modify the criteria for a secure custody order to clarify that a superior court judge may enter a secure custody order following the removal of a case to juvenile court, pursuant to G.S. 15A-960. Section 2 would also authorize the issuance of a secure custody order in response to the violation of a 50B domestic violence protective order, as provided in G.S. 50B-4.1(b) which would require the arrest of an adult offender.

Part III

Last session, the General Assembly passed S.L. 2024-17 (H834), which among other changes to the juvenile justice system, modified G.S. 7B-3101, Notification of schools when juveniles are alleged or found to be delinquent, to require a juvenile court counselor to notify the juvenile's school only if the juvenile committed what would be a Class A through E felony, if committed by an adult.

Section 3 would modify G.S. 7B-3101 to clarify that all school notifications are limited to Class A through E felonies, consistent with the recent changes enacted by S.L. 2024-17.

Part IV

Section 4 would extend the retention period for closed complaints to require that closed complaints must be retained for a period of at least one year, to allow for review by the prosecutor under G.S. 7B-1704 (Request for review by prosecutor) and G.S. 7B-1705 (Review of determination that petition should not be filed.)

Part V

G.S. 14-256, provides that it is a criminal offense to "break any prison, jail or lockup" or "escape" the "lawful custody of any superintendent, guard or officer of such prison, jail or lockup." Generally, violation of G.S. 14-256 is a Class 1 misdemeanor, but violation becomes a Class H felony upon the violator meeting certain listed criteria. There is no criminal offense for escaping from a juvenile justice facility.

Section 5 would create a new criminal offense, G.S. 14-256.2, Escape from juvenile detention facilities or officers. This new offense would prohibit escape from any detention facility, holdover facility, or youth developments center and escape from any employee, guard or officer of the Division. Generally, violation would be a Class 1 misdemeanor, but violation would become a Class H felony upon the violator meeting certain listed criteria, such as being charged with a felony offense or an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

Part VI

Last session, the General Assembly passed S.L. 2023-114 (H186), which established new comprehensive procedures to determine the capacity of a juvenile to stand trial, by creating a new Article 24 in Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.

Section 6 would make modifications to clarify and make technical corrections to the juvenile capacity to proceed process.

Part VII

Section 7 would clarify the process to remove a juvenile from superior court to juvenile court.

Part VIII

Section 8 would make modifications to clarify the place of confinement for persons under 18 who are sentenced to imprisonment. These changes clarify that pretrial confinement for a person under 18 is in the custody of the Division, but that post-conviction imprisonment is in the custody of the Department of Adult Correction.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Parts I through VII would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date. Part VIII would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed, sentences imposed, and any other orders of imprisonment issued on or after that date. The remainder of this act would be effective when it becomes law.