

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: S4/3/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 488

5 By: Senator Irvin
6 By: Representative Dalby
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY; TO
10 AMEND DEFINITIONS UNDER THE ARKANSAS JUVENILE CODE OF
11 1989; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING WHEN A JUVENILE IS
12 CONSIDERED TO BE ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT; AND FOR
13 OTHER PURPOSES.
14
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Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING WHEN A
17 JUVENILE IS CONSIDERED TO BE ADJUDICATED
18 DELINQUENT.
19
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-27-303(15), concerning the definition of
24 "delinquent juvenile" under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (15) "Delinquent juvenile" means+

27 ~~(A) A a juvenile who was ten (10) years of age old or~~
28 ~~older at the time the juvenile who:~~

29 ~~(i)(A) Has committed Committed an act, other than a~~
30 ~~traffic offense or game and fish violation, that, if the act had been~~
31 ~~committed by an adult, would subject the adult to prosecution for a felony,~~
32 ~~misdemeanor, or violation under the applicable criminal laws of this state;~~

33 ~~(ii)(B) Has violated Violated § 5-73-119; or,~~

34 ~~(iii) Has violated § 5-71-217(d)(2), cyberbullying of~~
35 ~~a school employee or another criminal law or status offense that can only be~~
36 ~~committed by a juvenile under the laws of this state; or~~



1 ~~(B)(C) Any juvenile charged with capital murder, § 5-10-~~
2 ~~101, or murder in the first degree, § 5-10-102, subject Committed an offense~~
3 ~~which later results in to an extended juvenile jurisdiction designation;~~
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5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-27-303(33), concerning the definition of
6 "juvenile" under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 (33) "Juvenile" means an individual who ~~is~~:

9 (A) ~~From~~ Is from birth to eighteen (18) years of age,
10 whether married or single; or

11 (B) Was under eighteen (18) years of age at the time a
12 delinquent offense occurred but has since reached the age of majority; or

13 (C) Adjudicated Was adjudicated delinquent, a juvenile
14 member of a family in need of services, or dependent or dependent-neglected
15 by the juvenile division of circuit court prior to eighteen (18) years of age
16 and for whom the juvenile division of circuit court retains jurisdiction;
17

18 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 9-28-206 is amended to read as follows:
19 9-28-206. Disposition of delinquent juvenile.

20 (a) When a ~~circuit court or any other court having jurisdiction of a~~
21 ~~juvenile under eighteen (18) years of age~~ finds a delinquent juvenile
22 committed a to be delinquent act while under eighteen (18) years of age as
23 ~~defined by the laws of this state~~, the court may commit the juvenile to the
24 Division of Youth Services ~~for an indeterminate period not to exceed the~~
25 ~~twenty-first birthday of the juvenile.~~

26 (b) No court may commit a juvenile found solely in criminal contempt
27 to the ~~division~~ Division of Youth Services.
28

29 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 9-28-208(a)(1), concerning what shall be
30 included in an order of commitment to the Division of Youth Services, is
31 amended to read as follows:

32 (a)(1) An order of commitment to the Division of Youth Services shall
33 state that the juvenile is found to be adjudicated a delinquent juvenile and
34 shall state information regarding the underlying facts of the adjudication.
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36 APPROVED: 4/17/25