

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 488

4  
5 By: Senator Irvin  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
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

## Subtitle

15  
16  
17 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING WHEN A  
18 JUVENILE IS CONSIDERED TO BE ADJUDICATED  
19 DELINQUENT.  
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 old or older at  
28 the time the juvenile who:

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

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

34 ~~(iii) Has violated § 5-71-217(d)(2), cyberbullying of~~  
35 ~~a school employee; or~~

36 ~~(B) Any juvenile charged with capital murder, § 5-10-101,~~



1 ~~or murder in the first degree, § 5-10-102, subject to extended juvenile~~  
 2 ~~jurisdiction;~~

3  
 4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 9-27-303(33), concerning the definition of  
 5 "juvenile" under the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, is amended to read as  
 6 follows:

7 (33) "Juvenile" means an individual who is:

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

10 (B) Eighteen (18) years of age or older but who, at the  
 11 time of the alleged delinquent offense for which he or she is accused or  
 12 adjudicated, was under eighteen (18) years of age; or

13 (C) Adjudicated delinquent, a juvenile member of a family  
 14 in need of services, or dependent or dependent-neglected by the juvenile  
 15 division of circuit court prior to eighteen (18) years of age and for whom  
 16 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.  
 35  
 36