



The Connecticut Success Story

Connecticut Returns

16- and 17-Year-Olds to Juvenile court Jurisdiction

In June 2007, the Connecticut legislature approved a bill raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 16 to 18. The legislation is being implemented in phases, with a focus on bringing 16-year-olds back into the juvenile system first. As of January 2010, 16-year-olds were officially part of the juvenile justice system. This success was the result of the combined efforts of legislators, specifically Representative Toni Walker and Senator Toni Harp, state agencies, law enforcement officials, judicial officers, advocacy and grassroots organizations, parents, and family members. These various stakeholders were brought together in large part by the “Raise the Age CT” campaign coordinated by the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (CTJJA) and the Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Implementation Coordinating Council (JJPICC). Representative Walker expressed the sentiment behind the campaign, saying, “There are still penalties in place for kids who commit crimes. But we will hold them accountable in a setting that’s designed to improve their behavior rather than exacerbate it. Sending kids to adult prisons is a great way to create adult criminals. Connecticut is now out of that business.”

Connecticut has set a powerful example for other states that it is possible to help youth without compromising public safety. The results of the first year of implementation are promising. According to Abby Anderson, Executive Director of CTJJA, “the implementation has proceeded smoothly.” A recent report by CTJJA, *Safe and Sound*, has found that keeping the 16-year-olds out of the adult system has not overloaded the juvenile justice system – nor has it led to more juvenile crime. Seventeen-year-olds are expected to be added to the juvenile system on July 1, 2012.¹

March 2011

References

¹ 2007 Conn. Pub. Acts no. 07-4, June Spec. Sess., (Conn. 2007); Tuhus, M. (2007, July 19). Age Raised. *New Haven Independent*; Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (2010) *Safe and Sound*, New Haven: CT, Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance; see also <http://www.raisetheagect.org/>.

Sec. 73. Section 46b-120 of the general statutes, as amended by section 1 of public act 05-250, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

The terms used in this chapter shall, in its interpretation and in the interpretation of other statutes, be defined as follows: (1) "Child" means any person under sixteen years of age, [and,] except that for purposes of delinquency matters and proceedings, "child" means any person (A) under [sixteen] eighteen years of age, or (B) [sixteen] eighteen years of age or older who, prior to attaining [sixteen] eighteen years of age, has [violated any federal or state law or municipal or local ordinance, other than an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with service needs,] committed a delinquent act and, subsequent to attaining [sixteen] eighteen years of age, violates any order of the Superior Court or any condition of probation ordered by the Superior Court with respect to such delinquency proceeding; (2) "youth" means any person sixteen or seventeen years of age; [(3) "youth in crisis" means any youth who, within the last two years, (A) has without just cause run away from the parental home or other properly authorized and lawful place of abode, (B) is beyond the control of the youth's parents, guardian or other custodian, or (C) has four unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten unexcused absences in any school year; (4)] (3) "abused" means that a child or youth (A) has been inflicted with physical injury or injuries other than by accidental means, [or] (B) has injuries that are at variance with the history given of them, or (C) is in a condition that is the result of maltreatment, [such as] including, but not limited to, malnutrition, sexual molestation or exploitation, deprivation of necessities, emotional maltreatment or cruel punishment; [(5)] (4) a child may be found "mentally deficient" who, by reason of a deficiency of intelligence that has existed from birth or from early age, requires, or will require, for [his] such child's protection or for the protection of others, special care, supervision and control; [(6)] (5) a child may be convicted as "delinquent" who has violated (A) any federal or state law, [or municipal or local ordinance, other than an ordinance regulating behavior of a child in a family with service needs] other than the commission of (i) an infraction or violation by a youth under subsection (b) of section 51-164n, or (ii) a motor vehicle violation by a youth for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, (B) any order of the Superior Court, except as provided in section 46b-148, or (C) conditions of probation as ordered by the court; [(7)] (6) a child or youth may be found "dependent" whose home is a suitable one for the child or youth, [save] except for the financial inability of the child's or youth's parents, parent or guardian, or other person maintaining such home, to provide the specialized care the condition of the child or youth requires; [(8)] (7) "family with service needs" means a family that includes a child or youth who (A) has without just cause run away from the parental home or other properly authorized and lawful place of abode, (B) is beyond the control of the child's or youth's parent, parents, guardian or other custodian, (C) has engaged in indecent or immoral conduct, (D) is a truant or habitual truant or who, while in school, has been continuously and overtly defiant of school rules and regulations, or (E) is thirteen years of age or older and has engaged in sexual intercourse with another person and such other person is

thirteen years of age or older and not more than two years older or younger than such child or youth; [(9)] (8) a child or youth may be found "neglected" who (A) has been abandoned, [or] (B) is being denied proper care and attention, physically, educationally, emotionally or morally, [or] (C) is being permitted to live under conditions, circumstances or associations injurious to the well-being of the child or youth, or (D) has been abused; [(10)] (9) a child or youth may be found "uncared for" who is homeless or whose home cannot provide the specialized care that the physical, emotional or mental condition of the child or youth requires. For the purposes of this section, the treatment of any child or youth by an accredited Christian Science practitioner, in lieu of treatment by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, shall not of itself constitute neglect or maltreatment; [(11)] (10) "delinquent act" means the violation of any federal or state law, [or municipal or local ordinance, other than an ordinance regulating the behavior of a child in a family with service needs,] or the violation of any order of the Superior Court, other than the commission of (A) an infraction or violation by a youth under subsection (b) of section 51-164n, or (B) a motor vehicle violation by a youth for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed; [(12)] (11) "serious juvenile offense" means (A) the violation of, including attempt or conspiracy to violate, (i) section 21a-277, 21a-278, 29-33, 29-34, 29-35, 53-21, 53-80a, 53-202b, 53-202c, 53-390 to 53-392, inclusive, 53a-54a to [53a-57] 53a-56a, inclusive, 53a-59 to 53a-60c, inclusive, 53a-70 to 53a-71, inclusive, 53a-72b, 53a-86, 53a-92 to 53a-94a, inclusive, 53a-95, 53a-101, 53a-102a, 53a-103a or 53a-111 to 53a-113, inclusive, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122, subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-123, section 53a-134, 53a-135, 53a-136a, 53a-166 or 53a-167c, subsection (a) of section 53a-174, or section 53a-196a, 53a-211, 53a-212, 53a-216 or 53a-217b, by a child, or (ii) section 53a-56b or 53a-57 by a child under sixteen years of age, or (B) running away, without just cause, from any secure placement other than home while referred as a delinquent child to the Court Support Services Division or committed as a delinquent child to the Commissioner of Children and Families for a serious juvenile offense; [(13)] (12) "serious juvenile offender" means any child convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense; [(14)] (13) "serious juvenile repeat offender" means any child charged with the commission of any felony if such child has previously been convicted as delinquent or otherwise convicted at any age for two violations of any provision of title 21a, 29, 53 or 53a that is designated as a felony; [(15)] "alcohol-dependent child" means any child who has] (14) "alcohol-dependent" means a psychoactive substance dependence on alcohol as that condition is defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders"; and [(16)] "drug-dependent child" means any child who has] (15) "drug-dependent" means a psychoactive substance dependence on drugs as that condition is defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders". No child shall be classified as drug dependent who is dependent (A) upon a morphine-type substance as an incident to current medical treatment of a demonstrable physical disorder other than drug dependence, or (B) upon amphetamine-type, ataractic, barbiturate-type, hallucinogenic

or other stimulant and depressant substances as an incident to current medical treatment of a demonstrable physical or psychological disorder, or both, other than drug dependence.

Sec. 74. Section 46b-121 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(a) (1) Juvenile matters in the civil session include all proceedings concerning uncared-for, neglected or dependent children and youths within this state, termination of parental rights of children committed to a state agency, matters concerning families with service needs, contested matters involving termination of parental rights or removal of guardian transferred from the Probate Court [,] and the emancipation of minors, [and youths in crisis,] but does not include matters of guardianship and adoption or matters affecting property rights of any child [,] or youth [or youth in crisis] over which the Probate Court has jurisdiction, [provided] except that appeals from probate concerning adoption, termination of parental rights and removal of a parent as guardian shall be included.

(2) Juvenile matters in the criminal session include all proceedings concerning delinquent children [in the] within this state and persons [sixteen] eighteen years of age and older who are under the supervision of a juvenile probation officer while on probation or a suspended commitment to the Department of Children and Families, for purposes of enforcing any court orders entered as part of such probation or suspended commitment.

(b) (1) In juvenile matters, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce such orders directed to parents, including any person who acknowledges before [said] the court paternity of a child born out of wedlock, guardians, custodians or other adult persons owing some legal duty to a child [, youth or youth in crisis] or youth therein, as [it] the court deems necessary or appropriate to secure the welfare, protection, proper care and suitable support of a child [, youth or youth in crisis] or youth subject to [its] the court's jurisdiction or otherwise committed to or in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families. In addition, with respect to proceedings concerning delinquent children, the Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce such orders as [it] the court deems necessary or appropriate to punish the child, deter the child from the commission of further delinquent acts, assure that the safety of any other person will not be endangered and provide restitution to any victim. [Said court] The Superior Court shall also have authority to grant and enforce temporary and permanent injunctive relief [, temporary or permanent] in all proceedings concerning juvenile matters.

(2) If any order for the payment of money is issued by [said court] the Superior Court, including any order assessing costs issued under section 46b-134 or 46b-136, the

collection of such money shall be made by [said] the court, except orders for support of children committed to any state agency or department, which orders shall be made payable to and collected by the Department of Administrative Services. [Where] If the [court] Superior Court after due diligence is unable to collect such moneys within six months, [it] the court shall refer such case to the Department of Administrative Services for collection as a delinquent account. In juvenile matters, the [court] Superior Court shall have authority to make and enforce orders directed to persons liable hereunder on petition of [said] the Department of Administrative Services made to [said] the court in the same manner as is provided in section 17b-745, in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-81 [,] or 17b-223, subsection (b) of section 17b-179 [,] or section 17a-90, 46b-129 or 46b-130, and all of the provisions of section 17b-745 shall be applicable to such proceedings. Any judge hearing a juvenile matter may make any other order in connection therewith that a judge of the Superior Court is authorized to grant and such order shall have the same force and effect as any other order of the Superior Court. In the enforcement of [its] the court's orders, in connection with any juvenile matter, the court may issue process for the arrest of any person, compel attendance of witnesses and punish for contempt by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Sec. 75. Subsection (c) of section 46b-127 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(c) Upon the effectuation of the transfer, such child shall stand trial and be sentenced, if convicted, as if [he were sixteen] such child were eighteen years of age. Such child shall receive credit against any sentence imposed for time served in a juvenile facility prior to the effectuation of the transfer. A child who has been transferred may enter a guilty plea to a lesser offense if the court finds that such plea is made knowingly and voluntarily. Any child transferred to the regular criminal docket who pleads guilty to a lesser offense shall not resume [his] such child's status as a juvenile regarding [said] such offense. If the action is dismissed or nolleed or if such child is found not guilty of the charge for which [he] such child was transferred or of any lesser included offenses, the child shall resume [his] such child's status as a juvenile until [he] such child attains the age of [sixteen] eighteen years.

Sec. 76. Subsection (f) of section 46b-133c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(f) Whenever a proceeding has been designated a serious juvenile repeat offender prosecution pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and the child does not waive such child's right to a trial by jury, the court shall transfer the case from the docket for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court. Upon transfer, such child shall stand trial and be sentenced, if convicted, as if such child were [sixteen] eighteen years of age, except that no such child shall be placed in a correctional facility

but shall be maintained in a facility for children and youths until such child attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age or until such child is sentenced, whichever occurs first. Such child shall receive credit against any sentence imposed for time served in a juvenile facility prior to the effectuation of the transfer. A child who has been transferred may enter a guilty plea to a lesser offense if the court finds that such plea is made knowingly and voluntarily. Any child transferred to the regular criminal docket who pleads guilty to a lesser offense shall not resume such child's status as a juvenile regarding such offense. If the action is dismissed or nolleed or if such child is found not guilty of the charge for which such child was transferred, the child shall resume such child's status as a juvenile until such child attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age.

Sec. 77. Subsection (f) of section 46b-133d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(f) When a proceeding has been designated a serious sexual offender prosecution pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and the child does not waive the right to a trial by jury, the court shall transfer the case from the docket for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court. Upon transfer, such child shall stand trial and be sentenced, if convicted, as if such child were [sixteen] eighteen years of age, except that no such child shall be placed in a correctional facility but shall be maintained in a facility for children and youths until such child attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age or until such child is sentenced, whichever occurs first. Such child shall receive credit against any sentence imposed for time served in a juvenile facility prior to the effectuation of the transfer. A child who has been transferred may enter a guilty plea to a lesser offense if the court finds that such plea is made knowingly and voluntarily. Any child transferred to the regular criminal docket who pleads guilty to a lesser offense shall not resume such child's status as a juvenile regarding such offense. If the action is dismissed or nolleed or if such child is found not guilty of the charge for which such child was transferred, the child shall resume such child's status as a juvenile until such child attains [sixteen] eighteen years of age.

Sec. 78. Subsection (c) of section 10-19m of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(c) The Commissioner of Education shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, establishing minimum standards for such youth service bureaus and the criteria for qualifying for state cost-sharing grants, including, but not limited to, allowable sources of funds covering the local share of the costs of operating such bureaus, acceptable in-kind contributions and application procedures. Said commissioner shall, on December 1, 1979, and annually thereafter, report to the General Assembly on the referral or diversion of children under the age of [sixteen] eighteen years from the juvenile justice system and [on the referral or diversion of children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years from] the court system. Such report shall

include, but not be limited to, the number of times any child is so diverted, the number of children diverted, the type of service provided to any such child, by whom such child was diverted, the ages of the children diverted and such other information and statistics as the General Assembly may request from time to time. Any such report shall contain no identifying information about any particular child.

Sec. 79. Subsection (b) of section 46b-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(b) Upon conviction of a child as delinquent, the court: ~~[may: (1) Place]~~ (1) May (A) place the child in the care of any institution or agency which is permitted by law to care for children; [(2)] (B) order the child to participate in an alternative incarceration program; [(3)] (C) order the child to participate in a wilderness school program operated by the Department of Children and Families; [(4)] (D) order the child to participate in a youth service bureau program; [(5)] (E) place the child on probation; [(6)] (F) order the child or the parents or guardian of the child or both to make restitution to the victim of the offense in accordance with subsection (d) of this section; [(7)] (G) order the child to participate in a program of community service in accordance with subsection (e) of this section; or [(8)] (H) withhold or suspend execution of any judgment; and (2) shall impose the penalty established in subsection (b) of section 30-89, for any violation of said subsection (b).

Sec. 80. Section 46b-146 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

Whenever any child has been found to be delinquent or a member of a family with service needs, or has signed a statement of responsibility admitting to having committed a delinquent act or being a member of a family with service needs, and has subsequently been discharged from the supervision of the Superior Court or from the custody of the Department of Children and Families or from the care of any other institution or agency to whom ~~[he]~~ the child has been committed by the court, such child, ~~[his]~~ or the child's parent or guardian, may file a petition with the Superior Court and, if such court finds that at least two years or, in the case of a child convicted as delinquent for the commission of a serious juvenile offense, four years have elapsed from the date of such discharge, that no subsequent juvenile proceeding has been instituted against such child, that such child has not been found guilty of a crime and that such child has reached sixteen years of age within such period, it shall order all police and court records pertaining to such child to be erased. Upon the entry of such an erasure order, all references including arrest, complaint, referrals, petitions, reports and orders, shall be removed from all agency, official and institutional files, and a finding of delinquency or that the child was a member of a family with service needs shall be deemed never to have occurred. The persons in charge of such records shall not disclose to any person information pertaining to the record so erased, except that the fact of such

erasure may be substantiated where, in the opinion of the court, it is in the best interests of such child to do so. No child who has been the subject of such an erasure order shall be deemed to have been arrested ab initio, within the meaning of the general statutes, with respect to proceedings so erased. Copies of the erasure order shall be sent to all persons, agencies, officials or institutions known to have information pertaining to the delinquency or family with service needs proceedings affecting such child. Whenever a child is dismissed as not delinquent or as not being a member of a family with service needs, all police and court records pertaining to such charge shall be ordered erased immediately, without the filing of a petition.

Sec. 81. Subsection (b) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(b) All records of cases of juvenile matters, as provided in section 46b-121, as amended by this act, except delinquency proceedings, or any part thereof, and all records of appeals from probate brought to the superior court for juvenile matters pursuant to subsection (b) of section 45a-186, shall be confidential and for the use of the court in juvenile matters, and open to inspection or disclosure to any third party, including bona fide researchers commissioned by a state agency, only upon order of the Superior Court, except that: (1) The records concerning any matter transferred from a court of probate pursuant to section 45a-623 or subsection (g) of section 45a-715 or any appeal from probate to the superior court for juvenile matters pursuant to subsection (b) of section 45a-186 shall be available to the court of probate from which such matter was transferred or from which such appeal was taken; (2) such records shall be available to (A) the attorney representing the child or youth, including the Division of Public Defender Services, in any proceeding in which such records are relevant, (B) the parents or guardian of the child or youth until such time as the child or youth reaches the age of majority or becomes emancipated, (C) an adult adopted person in accordance with the provisions of sections 45a-736, 45a-737 and 45a-743 to 45a-757, inclusive, (D) employees of the Division of Criminal Justice who in the performance of their duties require access to such records, (E) employees of the judicial branch who in the performance of their duties require access to such records, (F) another court under the provisions of subsection (d) of section 46b-115j, (G) the subject of the record, upon submission of satisfactory proof of the subject's identity, pursuant to guidelines prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, provided the subject has reached the age of majority or has been emancipated, (H) the Department of Children and Families, and (I) the employees of the Commission on Child Protection who in the performance of their duties require access to such records; and (3) all or part of the records concerning a youth in crisis with respect to whom a court order [has been] was issued prior to January 1, 2010, [pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 46b-150f] may be made available to the Department of Motor Vehicles, provided such records are relevant to such order. Any records of cases of juvenile matters, or any part thereof, provided to any persons, governmental and private agencies, and institutions pursuant

to this section shall not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any third party not specified in subsection (d) of this section, except as provided by court order or in the report required under section 54-76d or 54-91a.

Sec. 82. Section 46b-149b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

[(a)] Any police officer or any official of a municipal or community agency, who in the course of such police officer's or official's employment under subsection (d) of section 17a-15 or section 46b-120, as amended by this act, 46b-121, as amended by this act, 46b-149 [.] or 46b-149a [., 46b-150f or 46b-150g] provides assistance to a child or a family in need thereof, shall not be liable to such child or such family for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from the voluntary termination of service by the child or the family.

[(b) Each municipal police department and the Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety shall implement a uniform protocol for providing intervention and assistance in matters involving youths in crisis. Such uniform protocol shall be developed by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b.]

Sec. 83. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 15, 2008, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall complete an analysis of the requirements of sections 6, 28, 29, 31 and 32 of this act, sections 46b-149 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 46b-12 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 46b-121 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, subsection (c) of section 46b-127 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and subsection (f) of section 46b-133c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the impact of such requirements on budgeted state agencies, and shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, the judiciary, and human services and to the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children. The report shall indicate (1) the budgeted state agencies affected by sections 6, 28, 29, 31 and 32 of this act, sections 46b-149 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 46b-12 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 46b-121 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, subsection (c) of section 46b-127 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and subsection (f) of section 46b-133c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) the secretary's estimate of expenditures required to enable such budgeted state agencies to comply with the requirements of sections 6, 28, 29, 31 and 32 of this act, 46b-149 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, sections 46b-12 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 46b-121 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, subsection (c) of section 46b-127 of the general statutes, as

amended by this act, and subsection (f) of section 46b-133c of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

Sec. 84. Section 46b-121k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

(a) (1) The Court Support Services Division shall [be charged with the duty of developing] develop constructive programs for the prevention and reduction of delinquency and crime among juvenile offenders. To [that end] develop such programs, the executive director of the Court Support Services Division shall cooperate with other agencies to encourage the establishment of new programs and to provide a continuum of services for juvenile offenders who do not require secure placement, including, but not limited to, juveniles classified pursuant to the risk assessment instrument described in section 46b-121i, as those who may be released with structured supervision and those who may be released without supervision. When appropriate, the Court Support Services Division shall coordinate such programs with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

(2) The programs shall be tailored to the type of juvenile, including the juvenile's offense history, age, maturity and social development, gender, mental health, [and chemical] alcohol dependency or drug dependency, [problem,] need for structured supervision and other characteristics, and shall be culturally appropriate, trauma-informed and provided in the least restrictive environment possible in a manner consistent with public safety. The Court Support Services Division shall develop programs that provide: [(1)] (A) Intensive general [educational programs] education, with an [individual educational] individualized remediation plan for each juvenile; [(2) specific educational components in the management of] (B) appropriate job training and employment opportunities; (C) counseling sessions in anger management and nonviolent conflict resolution; [(3)] (D) treatment and prevention programs for [chemical] alcohol dependency and drug dependency; [(4)] (E) mental health screening, assessment and treatment; [and (5)] (F) sexual offender treatment; and (G) services for families of juveniles.

(b) The Judicial Department may contract to establish regional secure residential facilities and regional highly supervised residential and nonresidential facilities for juveniles referred by the court. Such facilities shall operate within contracted-for capacity limits. Such facilities shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of section 17a-145.

(c) The Court Support Services Division shall collaborate with private residential facilities providing residential programs and with community-based nonresidential postrelease programs.

(d) Any program developed by the Court Support Services Division that is designed to prevent or reduce delinquency and crime among juvenile offenders shall be gender specific, as necessary, and shall comprehensively address the unique needs of a targeted gender group.

(e) The Court Support Services Division shall consult with the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System established pursuant to section 51-10c to address the needs of minorities in the juvenile justice system.

Sec. 85. Subsection (b) of section 46b-133 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2010*):

(b) Whenever a child is brought before a judge of the Superior Court, such judge shall immediately have the case proceeded upon as a juvenile matter. Such judge may admit [such] the child to bail or release [him] the child in the custody of [his] the child's parent or parents, [his] the child's guardian or some other suitable person to appear before the Superior Court when ordered. If detention becomes necessary, [or desirable, the same] such detention shall be in the manner prescribed by this chapter, provided the child shall be placed in the least restrictive environment possible in a manner consistent with public safety.

Sec. 86. Subsection (a) of section 51-165 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective April 1, 2009*):

(a) (1) On and after July 1, 1998, the Superior Court shall consist of one hundred eighty-one judges, including the judges of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon nomination of the Governor.

(2) On and after October 1, 1998, the Superior Court shall consist of one hundred eighty-three judges, including the judges of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon nomination of the Governor.

(3) On and after January 1, 1999, the Superior Court shall consist of one hundred eighty-six judges, including the judges of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon nomination of the Governor.

(4) On and after October 1, 1999, the Superior Court shall consist of one hundred ninety-one judges, including the judges of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon nomination of the Governor.

(5) On and after October 1, 2000, the Superior Court shall consist of one hundred ninety-six judges, including the judges of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon nomination of the Governor.

(6) On and after April 1, 2009, the Superior Court shall consist of two hundred one judges, including the judges of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Court, who shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon nomination of the Governor.

Sec. 87. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) Not later than July 1, 2009, the Chief Court Administrator and the executive director of the Court Support Services Division of the judicial branch shall evaluate the programs and services provided in the juvenile justice system, including, but not limited to, services provided pursuant to chapter 815t of the general statutes, to ensure that such programs and services meet the needs of persons sixteen years of age or older in the juvenile justice system, and shall implement, within available resources, any changes deemed necessary in the programs and services.