

## **SB36 – Jonathan’s Law Fact Sheet**

Currently, the dual jurisdiction program in Missouri allows youth who have been certified as adults to remain in the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) to receive rehabilitation services and if successful, an opportunity to avoid a further adult sentence.

- Jonathan’s Law makes two modest changes to Missouri’s dual jurisdiction program by changing the timeframe in which youth are eligible for the program, and clarifying judge’s sentencing options:
  - Timeframe: The bill extends the procedural timeframe so that certified youth are not eliminated from candidacy for dual jurisdiction simply because of delays inherent to the court system. Currently, only youth who complete the court process before the age of 17 are eligible for DYS. **SB36 will extend the age of eligibility from 17 to 17 and 6 months which will allow more youth to benefit from the dual jurisdiction program.**
  - Judicial consideration of dual jurisdiction: **This bill clarifies that judges should consider dual jurisdiction, and also issue findings if the court believes that DYS is inappropriate for the youth.** The bill does not require the court to order dual jurisdiction, only to consider it.

### **SB36 will help Missouri youth**

- Jonathan’s law will help expand the number of youth eligible for our nationally recognized DYS program. The DYS Model, known nationally as the “Missouri Model,” receives national recognition, including an award from Harvard University, for its successful juvenile reform. The Missouri Model decreases recidivism rates by reducing crimes, while simultaneously maintaining a low cost program saving tax dollars. **Roughly 100 youth are certified as adults in Missouri every year. Many of these youth could be served by the DYS program.**

### **SB36 will keep Missouri safe**

Jonathan’s law will make more children eligible for a program that will keep Missouri safe. The DYS program has very low recidivism rates, achieves positive youth outcomes, and does it all at a modest budget. In contrast, research conducted by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that youth who are transferred from the juvenile court system to the adult criminal system are 34% more likely to recidivate, creating a larger public safety issue.

### **SB36 will save taxpayers money**

- Jonathan’s law will be cost-effective. The greatest source of savings generated by DYS derives from helping these youth become productive members of society. We know that steering just one high-risk youth away from a life of crime saves society \$3 million to \$6 million over the young person’s lifetime.