

Juvenile Justice; Detention Hearings; Dispositional Hearings; Tolling of Probation Term and Case Length Limits; Oversight Committee Duties; HB 2454

HB 2454 amends various statutes related to juvenile offenders.

Detention Hearings

The bill amends the statute in the Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code (Code) governing detention hearings to expand the permitted use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication between the juvenile and the judge from detention hearings only to all hearings under the section, including the detention review hearings required every 14 days while the juvenile is in detention. The bill further amends law related to detention review hearings by adding a provision stating such hearings are not required for a juvenile offender held in detention awaiting case disposition. The bill amends the Code statute governing post-adjudication orders and hearings to require, if a juvenile offender is being held in detention, that a dispositional hearing for sentencing take place within 45 days after the juvenile has been adjudicated.

Tolling of Probation Term and Case Length Limits

The bill amends the statute governing probation term limits and overall case length limits in the Code to clarify that when such limits are tolled due to the offender absconding from supervision while on probation, the limits shall not begin to run again until the offender is located and brought back to the jurisdiction. The bill also clarifies, if the juvenile fails to appear for the dispositional hearing, such limits shall not apply until the juvenile is brought before the court for disposition.

Duties of Oversight Committee

The bill amends one of the statutory duties of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (Juvenile Oversight Committee) to require the Juvenile Oversight Committee to “monitor,” rather than “calculate,” any state expenditures that have been avoided by reductions in the number of youth placed in out-of-home placements. A corresponding requirement that a summary of such averted costs be included in the Juvenile Oversight Committee’s annual report is changed from “calculated by the committee” to “determined.”