

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB620

Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 15, 2023

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 620 changes the provisions under which a juvenile who commits a serious crime of violence can be charged as an adult.

As written, § 29-1816 prevents a juvenile, who was under the age of 14 at the time of the offense, from being charged as an adult for any crime regardless of the class of felony or nature of offense.

LB 620 would allow the most serious of violent felonies to be filed in adult court when committed by juveniles age 12 or older. The bill would still provide an avenue for those charges to be transferred to juvenile court. It also includes provisions on the requirement for a hearing in juvenile court when a juvenile is taken into temporary custody and detained or placed in an alternative to detention.

Last, the bill would eliminate the waiver of a detention hearing through counsel and would require a juvenile to appear before a juvenile court Judge within 24 judicial hours of being detained or placed in an alternative to detention, in order to ensure the juvenile's best interest and community safety have been considered by a Judge.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike McDonnell