



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 592**

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 502

*Senate, April 13, 2026*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER FROM JUVENILE COURT TO ADULT COURT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46b-127 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) (1) The court shall automatically transfer from the docket for  
4 juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court the  
5 case of any child charged with the commission of a capital felony under  
6 the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, a class  
7 A felony, or a class B felony, except as provided in subdivision (3) of this  
8 subsection, or a violation of section 53a-54d, provided such offense was  
9 committed after such child attained the age of fifteen years and counsel  
10 has been appointed for such child if such child is indigent. Such counsel  
11 may appear with the child but shall not be permitted to make any  
12 argument or file any motion in opposition to the transfer. The child shall  
13 be arraigned in the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court at the  
14 next court date following such transfer, provided any proceedings held

15 prior to the finalization of such transfer shall be private and shall be  
16 conducted in such parts of the courthouse or the building in which the  
17 court is located that are separate and apart from the other parts of the  
18 court which are then being used for proceedings pertaining to adults  
19 charged with crimes.

20 (2) A state's attorney may, at any time after such arraignment, file a  
21 motion to transfer the case of any child charged with the commission of  
22 a class B felony or a violation of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of  
23 section 53a-70 to the docket for juvenile matters for proceedings in  
24 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

25 (3) No case of any child charged with the commission of a violation  
26 of section 53a-55, 53a-59b, 53a-71 or 53a-94, subdivision (2) of subsection  
27 (a) of section 53a-101, section 53a-112, 53a-122 or 53a-129b, subdivision  
28 (1), (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-134, section 53a-196c, 53a-  
29 196d or 53a-252 or subsection (a) of section 53a-301 shall be transferred  
30 from the docket for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the  
31 Superior Court, except as provided in this subdivision. Upon motion of  
32 a prosecutorial official, the superior court for juvenile matters shall  
33 conduct a hearing to determine whether the case of any child charged  
34 with the commission of any such offense shall be transferred from the  
35 docket for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the Superior  
36 Court. The court shall not order that the case be transferred under this  
37 subdivision unless the court finds that (A) such offense was committed  
38 after such child attained the age of fifteen years, (B) there is probable  
39 cause to believe the child has committed the act for which the child is  
40 charged, and (C) the best interests of the child and the public will not be  
41 served by maintaining the case in the superior court for juvenile matters.  
42 In making such findings, the court shall consider (i) any prior criminal  
43 or juvenile offenses committed by the child, (ii) the seriousness of such  
44 offenses, (iii) any evidence that the child has intellectual disability or  
45 mental illness, and (iv) the availability of services in the docket for  
46 juvenile matters that can serve the child's needs. Any motion under this  
47 subdivision shall be made, and any hearing under this subdivision shall  
48 be held, not later than thirty days after the child is arraigned in the

49 superior court for juvenile matters.

50 (b) Upon motion of a prosecutorial official, the superior court for  
51 juvenile matters shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the case  
52 of any child charged with the commission of a class C, D or E felony or  
53 an unclassified felony or any other offense not subject to the provisions  
54 of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section that is a serious firearm  
55 offense, as defined in section 53a-3, shall be transferred from the docket  
56 for juvenile matters to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court.  
57 The court shall not order that the case be transferred under this  
58 subdivision unless the court finds that (1) such offense was committed  
59 after such child attained the age of fifteen years, (2) there is probable  
60 cause to believe the child has committed the act for which the child is  
61 charged, and (3) the best interests of the child and the public will not be  
62 served by maintaining the case in the superior court for juvenile matters.  
63 In making such findings, the court shall consider (A) any prior criminal  
64 or juvenile offenses committed by the child, (B) the seriousness of such  
65 offenses, (C) any evidence that the child has intellectual disability or  
66 mental illness, and (D) the availability of services in the docket for  
67 juvenile matters that can serve the child's needs. Any motion under this  
68 subdivision shall be made [,] and [any hearing under this subdivision]  
69 the hearing on such motion shall be held [,] not later than thirty days  
70 after the child is arraigned in the superior court for juvenile matters,  
71 except in the case of a child arraigned for a serious firearm offense, in  
72 which case such motion shall be made and the hearing on such motion  
73 shall be held not later than fifteen days after such child is arraigned.

74 (c) If a case is transferred to the regular criminal docket pursuant to  
75 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section or subsection (b) of this  
76 section, or if a case is transferred to the regular criminal docket pursuant  
77 to subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section and the charge in such  
78 case is subsequently reduced to that of the commission of an offense for  
79 which a case may be transferred pursuant to subdivision (2) or (3) of  
80 subsection (a) of this section or subsection (b) of this section, the court  
81 sitting for the regular criminal docket may return the case to the docket  
82 for juvenile matters at any time prior to the court or jury rendering a

83 verdict or the entry of a guilty plea for good cause shown for  
84 proceedings in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

85 (d) Upon the effectuation of the transfer, such child shall stand trial  
86 and be sentenced, if convicted, as if such child were eighteen years of  
87 age, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section and section  
88 54-91g. Such child shall receive credit against any sentence imposed for  
89 time served in a juvenile facility prior to the effectuation of the transfer.  
90 A child who has been transferred may enter a guilty plea to a lesser  
91 offense if the court finds that such plea is made knowingly and  
92 voluntarily. Any child transferred to the regular criminal docket who  
93 pleads guilty to a lesser offense shall not resume such child's status as a  
94 juvenile regarding such offense. If the action is dismissed or nolleed or if  
95 such child is found not guilty of the charge for which such child was  
96 transferred or of any lesser included offenses, the child shall resume  
97 such child's status as a juvenile until such child attains the age of  
98 eighteen years.

99 (e) Any child whose case is transferred to the regular criminal docket  
100 of the Superior Court who is detained pursuant to such case shall be in  
101 the custody of the Commissioner of Correction upon the finalization of  
102 such transfer. A transfer shall be final (1) upon the arraignment on the  
103 regular criminal docket until a motion filed by the state's attorney  
104 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section is granted by the court, or (2)  
105 upon the arraignment on the regular criminal docket of a transfer  
106 ordered pursuant to subsection (b) of this section until the court sitting  
107 for the regular criminal docket orders the case returned to the docket for  
108 juvenile matters for good cause shown. Any child whose case is  
109 returned to the docket for juvenile matters who is detained pursuant to  
110 such case shall be in the custody of the Judicial Department.

111 (f) The transfer of a child to a Department of Correction facility shall  
112 be limited as provided in subsection (e) of this section and said  
113 subsection shall not be construed to permit the transfer of or otherwise  
114 reduce or eliminate any other population of juveniles in detention or  
115 confinement within the Judicial Department.

116 (g) Upon the motion of any party or upon the court's own motion, the  
117 case of any youth age sixteen or seventeen, except a case that has been  
118 transferred to the regular criminal docket of the Superior Court  
119 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, which is pending on the  
120 youthful offender docket, regular criminal docket of the Superior Court  
121 or any docket for the presentment of defendants in motor vehicle  
122 matters, where the youth is charged with committing any offense or  
123 violation for which a term of imprisonment may be imposed, other than  
124 a violation of section 14-227a, 14-227g or 14-227m or subdivision (1) or  
125 (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, may, before trial or before the  
126 entry of a guilty plea, be transferred to the docket for juvenile matters if  
127 (1) the youth is alleged to have committed such offense or violation on  
128 or after January 1, 2010, while sixteen years of age, or is alleged to have  
129 committed such offense or violation on or after July 1, 2012, while  
130 seventeen years of age, and (2) after a hearing considering the facts and  
131 circumstances of the case and the prior history of the youth, the court  
132 determines that the programs and services available pursuant to a  
133 proceeding in the superior court for juvenile matters would more  
134 appropriately address the needs of the youth and that the youth and the  
135 community would be better served by treating the youth as a  
136 delinquent. Upon ordering such transfer, the court shall vacate any  
137 pleas entered in the matter and advise the youth of the youth's rights,  
138 and the youth shall (A) enter pleas on the docket for juvenile matters in  
139 the jurisdiction where the youth resides, and (B) be subject to  
140 prosecution as a delinquent child. The decision of the court concerning  
141 the transfer of a youth's case from the youthful offender docket, regular  
142 criminal docket of the Superior Court or any docket for the presentment  
143 of defendants in motor vehicle matters shall not be a final judgment for  
144 purposes of appeal.

145 (h) Not later than January 15, 2027, and each January fifteenth  
146 thereafter, the chief administrative judge for the Juvenile Division of the  
147 Superior Court, or the chief administrative judge's designee, shall report  
148 the number of motions by a prosecutor to transfer a case to the regular  
149 criminal docket pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this  
150 section or subsection (b) of this section, the offenses charged in the cases

151 for which the transfers were sought and the disposition of such motions  
152 during the previous calendar year in accordance with the provisions of  
153 section 11-4a to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
154 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	46b-127

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

---

**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill makes various changes to laws on the discretionary transfer of certain cases from juvenile court to adult criminal court and requires the Judicial Department to annually report on the number of motions courts receive to transfer a juvenile case to the regular adult criminal court, resulting in no fiscal impact because the Judicial Department has the capacity and expertise to meet the bill's requirements.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 502*****AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER FROM JUVENILE COURT TO ADULT COURT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes to laws on the discretionary transfer of cases from juvenile court to adult criminal court for children aged 15 and over at the time of the alleged offense. It:

1. includes all serious firearm offenses, including misdemeanors (see below), in the list of offenses that make a case eligible for discretionary transfer, at a prosecutor's request, from the juvenile court to the adult court after a hearing (except for those offenses that are already subject to automatic transfer);
2. requires the prosecutor's motion and the transfer hearing on a case involving serious firearm offenses that are not subject to automatic transfer to be within 15 days of the child's arraignment, rather than 30 days as is the case for other offenses under current law; and
3. requires the juvenile court's chief administrative judge, or her designee, to annually report to the Judiciary Committee on the number of transfer motions sought, the offenses charged in each case, and the motions' disposition for the previous year.

It also makes minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER TO ADULT COURT**

By law, the juvenile court must automatically transfer a delinquency case to the adult criminal court docket if the child is at least age 15 at the

time of the offense and charged with a class A felony, certain class B felonies, or arson murder. Otherwise, transferring a case where a juvenile (at least age 15) is charged with a felony is at the court's discretion and may occur only if the prosecutor makes a motion and the court makes certain findings at the transfer hearing (discretionary transfer).

The bill adds to the list of crimes that are subject to a discretionary transfer upon the prosecutor's request, any serious firearm offense (see below) that is not subject to an automatic transfer. In doing so, it includes certain misdemeanors that would not otherwise be subject to discretionary transfer.

### ***Serious Firearm Offense***

Under the law, a "serious firearm offense" is a violation involving (1) the alteration of a firearm identification mark, serial number, or name; (2) the manufacture of a firearm or possession of one without a unique serial number or other identification (including ghost guns); (3) the prohibited sale, transfer, or possession of a large capacity magazine; (4) the possession of a stolen firearm or a firearm that is altered in a way that makes it unlawful; or (5) any crime of which an essential element is that the person discharged, used, or was armed with, and threatened the use of, a firearm (CGS § 53a-3(24)). A "firearm" is any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged (CGS § 53a-3(19)).

In most cases, these are felonies and are already subject to discretionary transfer (or automatic transfer in certain cases). But some serious firearm offenses are misdemeanors that are not subject to transfer to adult court under current law. This includes the following, if committed by someone who is not ineligible to possess a firearm under state or federal law: (1) violation of the "ghost gun" law and related provisions or (2) possession of a large capacity magazine.

### ***Date of the Transfer Hearing***

Under existing law, the prosecutor’s motion to transfer the case must be made, and the hearing held, within 30 days after the child’s arraignment in juvenile court. The bill makes an exception when a child is arraigned for a serious firearm offense. In that case, the motion must be made, and the hearing held within 15 days after the child is arraigned.

**Juvenile Court Report on Prosecutors’ Motions for Case Transfer**

Starting by January 15, 2027, the bill requires the juvenile court’s chief administrative judge or her designee, to annually report to the Judiciary Committee on the number of motions the court received from prosecutors to transfer a juvenile case to the regular adult criminal court. This applies to the discretionary transfer of class C, D, E, or unclassified felonies, certain class B felonies, and serious firearm offenses that are not subject to automatic transfer.

The report must also include the offenses charged in these cases and the disposition of the motions during the previous calendar year.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37    Nay 0    (03/24/2026)