

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 08-0592.01 Michael Dohr

**HOUSE BILL 08-1208**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING JUVENILES AGAINST WHOM CHARGES ARE DIRECTLY**  
102 **FILED IN A DISTRICT COURT.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

For purposes of authorizing a district attorney to directly file charges in district court against a juvenile ("direct file"), changes the minimum age of the defendant from 14 to 16 years. Removes vehicular homicide and vehicular assault from the crimes eligible for direct file. Permits a district court to sentence a juvenile to the youthful offender system as a result of a plea to a class 2 felony if the juvenile was originally charged with a class 1 felony and the district attorney stipulates

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 11, 2008

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 7, 2008

or the court finds there is no reasonable likelihood of conviction on the class 1 felony. Permits the district court to sentence a juvenile who is convicted as an adult to a juvenile disposition if the court finds the interests of the juvenile and the community are better served by a juvenile disposition. Requires the district court to sentence a juvenile who is convicted as an adult to a juvenile disposition for conviction of an offense for which criminal charges could not have been originally filed by information or indictment. States that, if a juvenile is convicted as an adult and receives a juvenile disposition, the juvenile's conviction shall be adjudicated as a juvenile delinquency. Creates a reverse-transfer process.

Makes conforming amendments.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** 19-2-517 (1) and (3), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
3 are amended, and the said 19-2-517 is further amended BY THE  
4 ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

5           **19-2-517. Direct filing.** (1) (a) A juvenile may be charged by the  
6 direct filing of an information in the district court or by indictment only  
7 when:

8           (I) The juvenile is ~~fourteen~~ SIXTEEN years of age or older at the  
9 time of the commission of the alleged offense and is alleged to have  
10 committed a class 1 or class 2 felony; or

11           (II) The juvenile is ~~fourteen~~ SIXTEEN years of age or older at the  
12 time of the commission of the alleged offense and:

13           (A) Is alleged to have committed a felony enumerated as a crime  
14 of violence pursuant to section 18-1.3-406, C.R.S.; or

15           (B) Is alleged to have committed a felony offense described in  
16 part 1 of article 12 of title 18, C.R.S., except for the possession of a  
17 handgun by a juvenile, as set forth in section 18-12-108.5, C.R.S.; or

18           (C) Is alleged to have used, or possessed and threatened the use  
19 of, a deadly weapon during the commission of felony offenses against the

1 person, which are set forth in article 3 of title 18, C.R.S.; or

2 (D) Is alleged to have committed vehicular homicide, as described  
3 in section 18-3-106, C.R.S., vehicular assault, as described in section  
4 18-3-205, C.R.S., or felonious arson, as described in part 1 of article 4 of  
5 title 18, C.R.S.; or

6 (III) The juvenile has, within the two previous years, been  
7 adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a delinquent act that constitutes a  
8 felony, is sixteen years of age or older at the time of the commission of  
9 the alleged offense, and allegedly has committed a crime defined by  
10 section 18-1.3-401, C.R.S., as a class 3 felony, except felonies defined by  
11 section 18-3-402 (1) (d), C.R.S., or section 18-3-403 (1) (e), C.R.S., as it  
12 existed prior to July 1, 2000; or

13 ~~(IV) The juvenile is fourteen years of age or older at the time of~~  
14 ~~the commission of the alleged offense, has allegedly committed a~~  
15 ~~delinquent act that constitutes a felony, and has previously been subject~~  
16 ~~to proceedings in district court as a result of a direct filing pursuant to this~~  
17 ~~section or a transfer pursuant to section 19-2-518; except that, if a~~  
18 ~~juvenile is found not guilty in the district court of the prior felony or any~~  
19 ~~lesser included offense, the subsequent charge shall be remanded back to~~  
20 ~~the juvenile court; or~~

21 (V) The juvenile is ~~fourteen~~ SIXTEEN years of age or older at the  
22 time of the commission of the alleged offense, has allegedly committed  
23 a delinquent act that constitutes a felony, and is determined to be an  
24 "habitual juvenile offender". For the purposes of this section, "habitual  
25 juvenile offender" is defined in section 19-1-103 (61).

26 (b) The offenses described in subparagraphs (I) to (V) of  
27 paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) shall include the attempt, conspiracy,

1 solicitation, or complicity to commit such offenses.

2 (3) (a) Whenever criminal charges are filed by information or  
3 indictment in the district court pursuant to this section, the district judge  
4 shall sentence the juvenile as follows:

5 (I) As an adult; or

6 (II) To the youthful offender system in the department of  
7 corrections in accordance with section 18-1.3-407, C.R.S., if the juvenile  
8 is convicted of an offense described in subparagraph (II) or (V) of  
9 paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section; except that a juvenile shall  
10 be ineligible for sentencing to the youthful offender system if the juvenile  
11 is convicted of:

12 (A) A class 1 felony;

13 (B) A class 2 felony as a result of a plea agreement in cases where  
14 the juvenile is charged with a class 1 felony EXCEPT WHEN THE DISTRICT  
15 ATTORNEY STIPULATES OR THE COURT FINDS THAT THERE IS NO  
16 REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD OF CONVICTION OF THE CLASS 1 FELONY;

17 (C) A class 2 felony and the juvenile has one or more prior  
18 convictions for a crime of violence, as defined in section 18-1.3-406,  
19 C.R.S., or prior adjudications for an offense that would constitute a crime  
20 of violence if committed by an adult;

21 ~~(D) A class 2 felony and the juvenile is sixteen years of age or  
22 older;~~

23 (E) Any sexual offense described in section 18-6-301 or 18-6-302,  
24 C.R.S., or part 4 of article 3 of title 18, C.R.S.; or

25 (F) A second or subsequent offense described in said  
26 subparagraph (II) or (V), if such person received a sentence to the  
27 department of corrections or to the youthful offender system for the prior

1 offense; or

2 (III) Pursuant to the provisions of this article, if the juvenile is less  
3 than sixteen years of age at the time of commission of the crime and is  
4 convicted of an offense other than a class 1 or class 2 felony, a crime of  
5 violence as defined under section 18-1.3-406, C.R.S., or an offense  
6 described in subparagraph (V) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this  
7 section and the judge makes a finding of special circumstances.

8 (b) Repealed.

9 (c) The district court judge ~~may~~ SHALL sentence a juvenile  
10 pursuant to the provisions of this article if the juvenile is convicted of a  
11 ~~lesser included~~ AN offense for which criminal charges could not have  
12 been originally filed by information or indictment in the district court  
13 pursuant to this section.

14 (d) WHEN A JUVENILE IS SENTENCED PURSUANT TO THE  
15 PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE, THE JUVENILE'S CONVICTION BY VERDICT  
16 SHALL BE ADJUDICATED AS A JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

17 (6) (a) A JUVENILE MAY FILE A REVERSE-TRANSFER PETITION WITH  
18 THE DISTRICT COURT WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE JUVENILE IS  
19 CHARGED BY THE DIRECT FILING OF AN INFORMATION IN DISTRICT COURT  
20 OR BY INDICTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, REQUESTING THAT THE  
21 JUVENILE'S CASE BE REMANDED TO THE JUVENILE COURT FOR  
22 ADJUDICATION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

23 (b) UPON RECEIPT OF THE PETITION, THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL  
24 SET A REVERSE-TRANSFER HEARING AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

25 (c) AT THE HEARING, THE JUVENILE SHALL HAVE THE BURDEN OF  
26 SHOWING BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE THAT ADJUDICATIVE  
27 PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE WOULD SERVE THE BEST

1 INTERESTS OF THE JUVENILE AND THE COMMUNITY.

2 (d) IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE JUVENILE HAS SATISFIED THE  
3 BURDEN DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (c) OF THIS SUBSECTION (6), THE  
4 COURT SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO  
5 GRANT THE JUVENILE'S PETITION:

6 (I) WHETHER THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE FOR THE CHARGED  
7 OFFENSES;

8 (II) WHETHER THE INTERESTS OF THE JUVENILE OR THE  
9 COMMUNITY WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY ADJUDICATIVE PROCEEDINGS  
10 PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE; AND

11 (III) THE FACTORS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 19-2-518 (4) (b).

12 **SECTION 2. Repeal.** 19-2-518 (5), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
13 is repealed as follows:

14 **19-2-518. Transfers.** (5) ~~When an action has been remanded to~~  
15 ~~the juvenile court pursuant to section 19-2-517 (1) (a) (IV) and the~~  
16 ~~prosecution seeks waiver of jurisdiction pursuant to this section, the~~  
17 ~~court's findings from the prior transfer hearing regarding the factor listed~~  
18 ~~in paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of this section shall establish prima~~  
19 ~~facie evidence that to retain jurisdiction in juvenile court would be~~  
20 ~~contrary to the best interests of the juvenile or of the community.~~

21

22 **SECTION 3. Effective date - applicability.** (1) This act shall  
23 take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
24 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly that is  
25 allowed for submitting a referendum petition pursuant to article V,  
26 section 1 (3) of the state constitution, (August 6, 2008, if adjournment  
27 sine die is on May 7, 2008); except that, if a referendum petition is filed

1 against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period,  
2 then the act, item, section, or part, if approved by the people, shall take  
3 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by  
4 proclamation of the governor.

5 (2) The provisions of this act shall apply to offenses committed on  
6 or after the applicable effective date of this act.