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CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
STATE CAPITOL – ROOM 5019
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814



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COMMITTEE ASSISTANT
SAMUEL LANCHESTER

(916) 651-4103
FAX (916) 668-7004

Agenda

April 28, 2021

Upon Adjournment of Military & Veterans Affairs Committee – Senate Chamber

BILL

AUTHOR

SUBJECT

AB 87

Committee on Budget

Juvenile Justice.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair

2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No:	AB 87	Hearing Date:	April 28, 2021
Author:	Committee on Budget		
Version:	April 26, 2021 As amended		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Christopher Francis		

Subject: Juvenile Justice

Summary: This is a budget trailer bill within the overall 2020-21 budget package with technical changes necessary to implement the realignment of the Division of Juvenile Justice that was included in the 2020 Budget Act.

Background: The Governor's January Budget in 2020 proposed to transfer the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to a newly created independent department within the Health and Human Services Agency on July 1, 2020. That approach was intended to align the rehabilitative mission of the state's juvenile justice system with trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate services supported by programs overseen by the state's Health and Human Services Agency. The unprecedented fiscal impact of COVID-19 resulted in the withdrawal of this proposal.

Subsequently, through SB 823, the Legislature and Governor agreed to expand on previous efforts to reform the state's juvenile justice system by transferring the responsibility for managing all youthful offenders to local jurisdictions and closing DJJ at a later specified date. SB 823 included several safeguards to reduce transfers of youth to adult jurisdiction. The bill also included Legislative intent to establish a separate, long-term local dispositional track for higher-need youth by March 1, 2021.

AB 87 establishes this track--called the Secure Youth Treatment Facilities--states the DJJ closure date, and includes various technical changes to effectuate the provisions included in the 2020 Budget Act. Specifically, this bill:

1. Allows counties to establish secure youth treatment facilities for certain youth who are 14 years of age or older and found to be a ward of the court based on an offense that would have resulted in a commitment to DJJ.
2. Provides guidance on how counties will adjudicate, house and facilitate services for these youth.
3. Requires the court to set a maximum term of confinement for the youth in a secure treatment facility and requires the submission of a rehabilitation plan to the court from the probation department and any other entity that is designated by the court to develop the plan.

4. Requires the court to hold regular progress review hearings for youth who are in a secure youth treatment facility. It also allows probation or the youth to make a motion to the court for transfer to a less restrictive program.
5. Requires the Judicial Council to develop and adopt a matrix of offense-based classifications.
6. Closes DJJ on June 30, 2023 and requires the Director of DJJ to develop a plan by January 2, 2022, for the transfer of jurisdiction of any remaining youth in DJJ who are unable to be discharged or otherwise moved.

Fiscal Effect: This trailer bill provides \$50,000 General Fund to the Adult Reentry Grant administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Support: None on file.

Opposed: None on file.

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