

## SB25 INTRODUCED



1 SB25  
2 5VHNJ6M-1  
3 By Senator Weaver  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26  
6 PFD: 19-Nov-25



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, an individual charged with a crime that is committed while he or she is under 19 years of age may be tried as a youthful offender.

This bill would prohibit a judge from granting youthful offender status to an individual who is 16 years of age or older and charged with capital murder or murder.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to criminal procedure; to amend Section 15-19-1, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit a judge from granting youthful offender status to an individual who is 16 years of age or older and charged with capital murder or murder.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as Jolee's Law.

Section 2. Section 15-19-1, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§15-19-1



## SB25 INTRODUCED

(a) Except as provided in subsection (c), an individual  
~~A person~~ charged with a crime ~~which~~ that was committed ~~in his~~  
~~or her minority~~ prior to the individual reaching 21 years of  
age but was not disposed of in juvenile court and ~~which~~ that  
involves moral turpitude or is subject to a sentence of  
commitment for one year or more shall be, and, if charged with  
a lesser crime may be, investigated and examined by the court.  
~~to~~ The court shall determine whether he or she should be tried  
as a youthful offender, provided he or she consents to ~~such~~  
the examination and to trial without a jury where trial by  
jury would otherwise be available to the defendant. If the  
defendant consents and the court so decides, no further action  
shall be taken on the indictment or information unless  
otherwise ordered by the court as provided in subsection (b).

(b) After ~~such~~ the investigation and examination, the  
court, ~~in its discretion,~~ may ~~direct~~ order either of the  
following:

(1) That ~~that~~ the defendant be arraigned as a youthful  
offender, and that no further action shall be taken on the  
indictment or information; ~~or the court may decide.~~

(2) That ~~that~~ the defendant ~~shall~~ not be arraigned as a  
youthful offender, ~~whereupon~~ and that the indictment or  
information shall be deemed filed.

(c) An individual who has attained 16 years of age or  
older at the time of the offense and who is charged with  
capital murder pursuant to Section 13A-5-40 or murder pursuant  
to Section 13A-6-2(a)(1) may not be tried as a youthful  
offender pursuant to subsection (a), but shall be charged,



## SB25 INTRODUCED

arrested, and tried as an adult. This shall not bar an individual from being eligible for application for youthful offender status if the initial charge of capital murder pursuant to Section 13A-5-40 or murder pursuant to Section 13A-6-2(a)(1) is reduced to a lesser charge.

~~(c) (d) (1) In addition to the provisions of subsections (a) and (b), when~~ When the defendant is charged with a crime that contains as an element of the crime or an allegation related to the charge that the defendant intentionally inflicted serious physical injury or intentionally killed the victim in the commission of the crime, prior to conducting a hearing or examination on whether the defendant will be arraigned as a youthful offender, the victim shall receive notice 10 days prior to the hearing pursuant to the provisions of the Crime Victims' Rights Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3771.

~~(2) In addition, the~~ The court shall conduct an evidentiary hearing on the allegations of the crime and the extent of injuries of the victim and shall consider the evidence prior to determining youthful offender status.

(3) The failure to provide a right, privilege, or notice to a victim under this subsection shall not be grounds for the defendant or victim to seek to have the disposition of the case set aside."

Section 3. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2026.