

**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



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## 4 SYNOPSIS:

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

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

12

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14 A BILL

15 TO BE ENTITLED

16 AN ACT

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

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

28 "§15-19-1



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

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

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

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



57       arrested, and tried as an adult. This shall not bar an  
58       individual from being eligible for application for youthful  
59       offender status if the initial charge of capital murder  
60       pursuant to Section 13A-5-40 or murder pursuant to Section  
61       13A-6-2(a)(1) is reduced to a lesser charge.

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

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

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

80           Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
81       1, 2026.