

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5429 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING ENTICEMENT OF A JUVENILE TO COMMIT A
Title: CRIMINAL ACT.

Vote Date: 3/24/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/18/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Driven by an intent to further prevent enticing a minor to commit criminal acts, this bill lowers the age of culpability for enticing a minor to commit a criminal act from twenty-three to twenty-one and increases the penalties for committing such an act.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Deborah Del Prete, Legal Counsel, Director, Office of Chief Public Defender: She testified in strong opposition to the bill and asked that no action be taken. She stated that this bill contradicts current legislation that was passed. She furthered that reducing the age from twenty-three to twenty-one years of age if someone entices a juvenile to commit a criminal act is contrary to substantial scientific evidence regarding brain development.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT): She testified in opposition to the bill. She stated that the bill conflicts with passed legislation that raises the age, recognizing scientific evidence regarding brain development.

Connecticut Justice Alliance: They testified in opposition to the bill as it overlooks scientific research which makes it clear that young people's ability to make decisions is still developing. They believe that adding new penalties is not taking this research into consideration and runs the risk of increasing young people's involvement in the legal system, undermining Connecticut's progress towards reducing youth system involvement.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray

Date: March 31, 2026