

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-502 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER FROM JUVENILE
Title: COURT TO ADULT COURT.

Vote Date: 3/24/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/20/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

CO-SPONSORS:

Sen. Paul Cicarella, 34th Dist.
Rep. Travis Simms, 140th Dist.
Rep. Antonio Felipe, 130th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill amends section 46b-127 to include all serious firearm offenses, as defined in 53a-3(24), to the list of discretionary transfers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Renee Cimino, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Office of Chief Public Defender: Renee Cimino opposes this legislation and asks the Committee to take no action. She explained that the purpose of the bill is to include “serious firearm offenses” in the list of offenses that would be eligible for discretionary transfer of a juvenile to the regular criminal docket. She believes this bill is unnecessary as prosecutorial officials can already transfer all felony offenses to the regular criminal docket.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Paul Cicarella, State Senator: Senator Cicarella supports this bill as it would extend the list of offenses eligible for discretionary transfer from juvenile to adult court to include serious firearm offenses. In this bill it requires any motion of transfer in such cases be scheduled for

a hearing within fifteen days of arraignment and mandates reporting of such transfer motions. He believes this bill will ensure timely and consistent handling of serious offenses while promoting transparency in the process. He explained that this does not remove the opportunity for rehabilitation but will give the judicial system the ability to respond in a responsible and efficient way to the most serious offenses.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Marc Donald, President & CEO, Catalyst CT: Marc Donald opposes this legislation. He explained that a meaningful transfer requires time to document and analyze things such as prior juvenile record, seriousness of the offense, evidence of intellectual disability or mental illness as well as availability of juvenile services; these findings must be fact-based and cannot responsibly be completed in 15 days. He believes that given the fifteen days, the assessments would be less accurate and increase errors in transfer decisions harming vulnerable youth. He stated that public safety is strengthened when juvenile systems are equipped to rehabilitate them.

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT): Jess Zaccagnino opposes this legislation, stating that the policies in this bill do not share the ACLU-CT values as they believe that children should be supported with services and resources that help them, their families, and communities rather than criminalize them. She believes that this bill greatly and unnecessarily expands the number of children to be automatically transferred to adult court and increasing the number of transfers is unlikely to result in a reduction of crime.

Reported by: Bonnie Gray

Date: 03/27/2026