



**National Center for Youth Law's
Youth Justice Initiative
California Policy Wins 2013 – Present**

2013

Senate Bill 260 (Senator Loni Hancock)

Established Youth Offender Parole Hearings for individuals who received indeterminate life or lengthy prison sentences for crimes committed while under age 18; requires the parole board to give great weight to the hallmark features of youth—diminished culpability, subsequent growth, and increased maturity of the person—in determining a person's suitability for parole.

2015

Senate Bill 261 (Senator Loni Hancock)

Expanded eligibility for Youth Offender Parole Hearings to people who received indeterminate life or lengthy prison sentences for crimes committed while under age 23.

Senate Bill 382 (Senator Ricardo Lara)

Updated statutory criteria used by judges to decide whether a youth should be prosecuted in the adult system, enumerating developmental factors within each of the five criteria, such as youth's immaturity, past trauma, and ability to grow and change, that may be given weight in transfer decisions.

2016

Proposition 57: Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act (Ballot Initiative)

Eliminated prosecutors' authority to directly file charges against youth in adult court and established new procedures for judges in determining whether to transfer a youth's case to adult court; authorized California prisons to award time credits to prisoners for good behavior and rehabilitative achievements, and to establish a new parole process for people serving prison sentences for nonviolent offenses.

2017

Assembly Bill 1308 (Assemblymember Mark Stone)

Expanded eligibility for Youth Offender Parole Hearings to people who received indeterminate life or lengthy prison sentences for crimes committed while under age 26.

Senate Bill 312 (Senator Nancy Skinner)

Removed a lifetime ban on the sealing of juvenile court records involving serious and violent felonies.

Senate Bill 394 (Senator Ricardo Lara)

Abolished life-without-parole sentences imposed on juveniles in California and made these youth eligible for Youth Offender Parole Hearings during their 25th year of incarceration.

Senate Bill 395 (Senator Ricardo Lara)

Ensured children understand their constitutional rights by requiring that youth 15 years of age and younger consult with legal counsel in person, by telephone or video conference, prior to a custodial interrogation by police and before waiving any of their constitutional rights.

2018

Senate Bill 439 (Senator Holly Mitchell, Senator Ricardo Lara)

Established the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction at 12, excluding cases where a child is accused of committing murder and enumerated violent rape offenses.

Senate Bill 1391 (Senator Ricardo Lara, Senator Holly Mitchell)

Repealed prosecutors' authority to make a motion to transfer a case involving a youth alleged to have committed a serious felony offense while 14 or 15 years of age from juvenile court to adult court.

Assembly Bill 1811: Fostering Success Fund (Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson)

Allocated four million dollars in State general funds for pre-arrest diversion programs and community-based services for youth in foster care group homes and shelters; gives guidance and training to law enforcement and operators of children's residential facilities on trauma-informed interventions.

Assembly Bill 1812: Youth Reinvestment Grant (Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer)

Allocated thirty-seven million dollars in State general funds to local jurisdictions to develop and expand pre-arrest diversion programs and trauma-informed community-based services for Native American youth on tribal lands and underserved youth statewide.

2019

Assembly Bill 1454: Youth Reinvestment Grant (Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer)

Allocated fifteen million dollars in State general funds to augment the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program to fund local jurisdictions and Federally Recognized Tribe's diversion programs for youth.

Assembly Bill 965 (Assemblymember Mark Stone)

Authorized the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to apply earned time credits, as established by Proposition 57, to a person's Youth Offender Parole Hearing date.

2020

Assembly Bill 901 (Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson)

Ended probation's authority to place youth on informal probation based on the belief that a young person "will probably soon" come under the courts' jurisdiction; prohibited prosecution of a youth for disobeying a school official; restricted "voluntary probation supervision" by eliminating the use of probation conditions and consequences for youth who have not been accused of a crime.

Assembly Bill 2425 (Assemblymember Mark Stone)

Established confidentiality and sealing provisions for the police records of youth that participate in diversion programs and youth that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the juvenile delinquency court.

Senate Bill 203 (Senator Steven Bradford)

Required all youth in California age 17 and younger consult with legal counsel prior to a custodial interrogation by police and before waiving any of their constitutional rights.

Senate Bill 823 (Senator Nancy Skinner)

Legislated a plan for closing the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by transferring the responsibility for the custody, treatment, and supervision of youth to the counties; and established the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, a state agency to provide meaningful oversight of a realigned juvenile justice system and administer state juvenile justice funding programs.

2021

Senate Bill 92 (Senator Nancy Skinner)

Requires the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by June 30, 2023; allows counties to establish secure youth treatment facilities for wards age 14 years or older, adjudicated for offenses that would have resulted in a commitment to DJJ; and makes other technical and conforming changes to implement the realignment of wards from the Division of Juvenile Justice to county-based custody.

Assembly Bill 124 (Senator Sydney Kamlager)

Requires criminal courts to consider whether the accused or convicted person had experienced psychological, physical, or childhood trauma, was a victim of intimate partner violence or human trafficking, or was a youth at the time of the commission of the offense, as factors in mitigation during charging, plea negotiations, sentencing, resentencing, and vacatur processes.

2022

Assembly Bill 503 (Assemblymember Mark Stone) – *Active Legislation*

Will require that the juvenile court's conditions of probation be individually tailored, developmentally appropriate, proportional, and not excessive; and will also establish a rebuttable presumption in favor of dismissing a youth's community probation supervision at six months, unless the court determines that extending probation is in the best interest of the youth.

For More Information

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