

SB 498 – Juvenile Justice

Repeals s. 985.557, F.S., eliminating both the discretionary and mandatory direct file that a state attorney can use on a juvenile for adult sanctions.

Per DOC, there were approximately 1,160 inmates admitted to the prison system in FY13-14 who committed their crimes when they were 14-17 years of age.

Given the existence of the discretionary and mandatory involuntary waiver allowing the state attorney to file a motion requesting the court to transfer a child for criminal prosecution, as well as the ability to indict on a felony punishable by death or life imprisonment, and without data on how many juveniles are sentenced to prison through each channel (direct file/indictment/waiver), it is not possible to determine the impact that this bill would have on prison beds.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Negative Indeterminate

Requested by: Senate