HB 133: Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Update

Closes a sexual abuse of a minor loophole

In 2017 a DJJ facility staff member engaged in a sexual relationship with a minor he previously supervised, and was acquitted due to vague statute.

HB 133 clarifies that DJJ facility staff are in a position of authority over DJJ youth. (Section 6).

2 Updates Outdated Definitions

HB133 updates terminology used to reference DJJ facilities and staff, correcting ambiguity which has resulted in confusion for law enforcement and the courts.

Policy Updates

- Clarifies DJJ's authority to amend petitions (Section 17).
- Requires victims be notified when juvenile offenders are released from a secure residential psychiatric treatment center (Section 25).
- Updates language to clarify release of information regarding alleged vs. adjudicated offenses (Section 26).
- Adds juvenile probation officers and DJJ staff to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect (Section 38).
- Repeals the revocation of juvenile drivers' licenses for *informal* controlled substance offenses to align with statute for *formal* controlled substance abuse cases (Section 39).

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Breakdown of Amended Terminology in HB133

Much of the language used to describe DJJ facilities and staff is outdated. HB 133 modernizes these terms to provide needed clarity as follows.

Repeals the following outdated terms:

- "juvenile detention home"
- "youth detention facility"

Repeals the following term:

"youth counselors"

- "correctional school"
- "Juvenile work camp"



Community Jail

Court Holding Cells

Lock-ups

Replaces them with: "juvenile detention facility" and "juvenile treatment facility"

Facility definitions in sections 27, 29. and 35.

Defines "temporary secure juvenile holding areas": DJJ works with local communities and entities to hold youth securely pending escort to a DJJ detention facility. Current statute does not reflect this process.

Replaces it with: "juvenile probation officer"

The new definition of "juvenile probation officer is in section 24 of HB133.

The term "youth counselor" hasn't been used to describe DJJ staff since 2003. In addition, the definition for "juvenile probation officers" under current statute is inaccurate. HB 133 clearly defines juvenile probation officers, their duties and authorities.

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