
**Early Learning & Human Services
Committee**

HB 2603

Brief Description: Reformatting the juvenile offender sentencing grid.

Sponsors: Representatives Goodman, Kagi and Walsh.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Makes technical changes to the standard-range disposition grid in the juvenile justice code for clarity.

Hearing Date: 1/27/12

Staff: Linda Merelle (786-7092).

Background:

Juvenile Dispositions

In the juvenile justice system, sentences for juvenile offenders are referred to as "dispositions." If a juvenile is found guilty of committing an offense, the court enters an order of disposition. Most disposition orders impose a punishment that is based upon a standard grid, which is set out in statute. The standard-range disposition is determined by the seriousness of the offense and the juvenile's prior criminal history. Under certain circumstances, the court may deviate from the standard range and impose a sentencing alternative or a sentence that is higher or lower than the standard range.

The disposition order may include detention, community service, a period of community supervision, restitution, and a fine. While adults are sentenced in terms of months and years, most juveniles are sentenced in terms of days and weeks.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The juvenile standard-range disposition grid is rearranged for ease of use and visual clarity.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.