

## **About HB239 – Juvenile Justice Amendments**

House Bill 239 – Juvenile Justice Amendments was passed during the 2017 General Session and signed by Governor Herbert on March 24, 2017. The provisions in H.B. 239 are based on recommendations from the Utah Juvenile Justice Working Group, which was comprised of 19 stakeholders representing all areas of the juvenile justice system.

H.B. 239 is a package of policies designed to promote public safety, hold juvenile offenders accountable, control costs, and improve outcomes. H.B. 239 seeks to improve Utah’s juvenile justice system by expanding and strengthening effective early intervention and diversion, standardizing responses to reduce disparities based on race, ethnicity and geography, and reserving system resources for those youth who pose the highest risk to public safety. H.B. 239 is designed to reallocate resources currently being spent on out-of-home placement towards evidence-based programs for youth residing at home.

It is anticipated that the enactment of HB239 will yield an estimated \$58 million in averted costs over five years. Juveniles will be served in lower cost services, be held accountable, and have reduced recidivism.

The effective dates for policy changes under H.B.239 are staggered over the next 15 months. The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of H.B. 239 and for gathering and analyzing data that measures the impact of the policy changes. To assist with overseeing implementation and data collection, the CCJJ has established the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) with 24 appointed members, representing stakeholders across the system impacted by policy changes in the bill. A full list of JJOC members can be found here on this website under JJOC Committee Members.