- 1 HB349
- 2 197593-2
- 3 By Representatives Collins, Wadsworth, Robertson, Hill,
- 4 McMillan, Simpson and Coleman
- 5 RFD: Judiciary
- 6 First Read: 04-APR-19

1	ENGROSSED
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4	A BILL
5	TO BE ENTITLED
6	AN ACT
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8	Relating to the age of majority; to amend Sections
9	12-15-102, 16-28-3, 22-52-16, 26-1-1, and 26-14-1, Code of
10	Alabama 1975, to provide further for the jurisdiction of the
11	juvenile court; to provide further for admission to public
12	school; to provide further for the jurisdiction of the probate
13	court with regard to involuntary commitments of persons who
14	are mentally ill; to provide further for an unemancipated
15	minor's right to contract; and to provide further for the
16	authority of the Department of Human Resources to provide
17	protective services.
18	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
19	Section 1. Sections 12-15-102, 16-28-3, 22-52-16,
20	26-1-1, and 26-14-1, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read
21	as follows:
22	"§12-15-102.
23	"When used in this chapter, the following words and
24	phrases have the following meanings:
25	"(1) ADULT. An individual 19 years of age or older.

"(2) AFTERCARE. Conditions and supervision as the juvenile court orders after release from the Department of Youth Services.

"(3) CHILD. An individual under the age of 18 years, or under 21 years of age and before the juvenile court for a delinquency matter arising before that individual's 18th birthday, or under 19 years of age and before the juvenile court for a child in need of supervision matter or commitment to the State Department of Mental Health. Where a delinquency petition alleges that an individual, prior to the individual's 18th birthday, has committed an offense for which there is no statute of limitation pursuant to Section 15-3-5, the term child also shall include the individual subject to the petition, regardless of the age of the individual at the time of filing.

"(4) CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION. A child who has been adjudicated by a juvenile court for doing any of the following and who is in need of care, rehabilitation, or supervision:

"a. Being subject to the requirement of compulsory school attendance, is habitually truant from school as defined by the State Board of Education in the Alabama Administrative Code. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a child shall not be found in need of supervision pursuant to this subdivision if the juvenile court determines that the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian of the child was solely responsible for the nonattendance of the child.

- "b. Disobeys the reasonable and lawful demands of his or her parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian and is beyond the control of the parent, legal guardian, or legal
- "c. Leaves, or remains away from, the home without the permission of the parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or person with whom he or she resides.
- d. Commits an offense established by law but not classified as criminal.
 - "(5) CHILD'S ATTORNEY. A licensed attorney who provides legal services for a child, or for a minor in a mental commitment proceeding, and who owes the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and competent representation to the child or minor as is due an adult client.
 - "(6) DELINQUENT ACT. An act committed by a child that is designated a violation, misdemeanor, or felony offense pursuant to the law of the municipality, county, or state in which the act was committed or pursuant to federal law. This term shall not apply to any of the following:
- "a. An offense when committed by a child 16 or 17
 years of age as follows:
 - "1. A nonfelony traffic offense or water safety offense other than one charged pursuant to Section 32-5A-191 or 32-5A-191.3 or a municipal ordinance prohibiting the same conduct.
- 27 "2. A capital offense.

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"3. A Class A felony. 1 2 "4. A felony which has as an element the use of a 3 deadly weapon. "5. A felony which has as an element the causing of 4 5 death or serious physical injury. "6. A felony which has as an element the use of a 6 7 dangerous instrument against any person who is one of the 8 following: "(i) A law enforcement officer or official. 9 10 "(ii) A correctional officer or official. "(iii) A parole or probation officer or official. 11 "(iv) A juvenile court probation officer or 12 13 official. "(v) A district attorney or other prosecuting 14 15 officer or official. "(vi) A judge or judicial official. 16 "(vii) A court officer or official. 17 18 "(viii) A person who is a grand juror, juror, or witness in any legal proceeding of whatever nature when the 19 20 offense stems from, is caused by, or is related to the role of 21 the person as a juror, grand juror, or witness. 22 "(ix) A teacher, principal, or employee of the 23 public education system of Alabama. 24 "7. Trafficking in drugs in violation of Section 25 13A-12-231, or as the same may be amended.

subparagraphs 1 to 7, inclusive, charged or any lesser felony

"8. Any lesser included offense of the offenses in

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offense charged arising from the same facts and circumstances and committed at the same time as the offenses listed in subparagraphs 1 to 7, inclusive.

- "b. Any criminal act, offense, or violation committed by a child under the age of 18 years who has been previously convicted or adjudicated a youthful offender.
- "(7) DELINQUENT CHILD. A child who has been adjudicated for a delinquent act and is in need of care or rehabilitation.
 - "(8) DEPENDENT CHILD. a. A child who has been adjudicated dependent by a juvenile court and is in need of care or supervision and meets any of the following circumstances:
 - "1. Whose parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other custodian subjects the child or any other child in the household to abuse, as defined in subdivision (2) of Section 12-15-301 or neglect as defined in subdivision (4) of Section 12-15-301, or allows the child to be so subjected.
 - "2. Who is without a parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian willing and able to provide for the care, support, or education of the child.
 - "3. Whose parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other custodian neglects or refuses, when able to do so or when the service is offered without charge, to provide or allow medical, surgical, or other care necessary for the health or well-being of the child.

"4. Whose parent, legal guardian, legal custodian,

or other custodian fails, refuses, or neglects to send the

child to school in accordance with the terms of the compulsory

school attendance laws of this state.

- "5. Whose parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other custodian has abandoned the child, as defined in subdivision (1) of Section 12-15-301.
- 8 "6. Whose parent, legal guardian, legal custodian,
 9 or other custodian is unable or unwilling to discharge his or
 10 her responsibilities to and for the child.
 - "7. Who has been placed for care or adoption in violation of the law.
 - "8. Who, for any other cause, is in need of the care and protection of the state.
 - "b. The commission of one or more status offenses as defined in subdivision (4) of Section 12-15-201 is not a sufficient basis for an adjudication of dependency.
 - "(9) DETENTION. The temporary placement of children alleged or adjudicated to be delinquent in secure custody as defined herein pending juvenile court disposition or transfer to a residential facility for further care of a child adjudicated delinquent.
 - "(10) GUARDIAN AD LITEM. A licensed attorney appointed by a juvenile court to protect the best interests of an individual without being bound by the expressed wishes of that individual.

"(11) INTAKE OFFICER. A juvenile probation officer or an employee of the judicial branch of government, who is neutral and detached from executive and legislative branch activities, designated by the juvenile court judge to initiate original delinquency, dependency, and child in need of supervision cases, as well as cases designated in Section 12-15-132 before the juvenile court. The juvenile court intake officer shall be appointed a magistrate pursuant to Rule 18, Alabama Rules of Judicial Administration, to issue warrants of arrest for individuals 18 years of age or older committing criminal offenses under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

"(12) JUVENILE COURT. The juvenile or family court division of the circuit or district court having jurisdiction over matters as provided by this chapter.

- "(13) JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY. Any facility owned or operated by the state, any county, or other legal entity licensed by and contracted with the Department of Youth Services for the detention of children.
- "(14) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. Any person, however denominated, who is authorized by law to exercise the police powers of the state, a county, or local governments.
- "(15) LEGAL CUSTODIAN. A parent, person, agency, or department to whom legal custody of a child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to this chapter has been awarded by order of the juvenile court or other court of competent jurisdiction.

"(16) LEGAL CUSTODY. A legal status created by order 1 2 of the juvenile court which vests in a legal custodian the right to have physical custody of a child under the 3 jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to this chapter 4 5 and the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the child and to provide the child with food, shelter, clothing, 6 7 education, and medical care, all subject to the powers, rights, duties, and responsibilities of the legal guardian of the person of the child and subject to any residual parental rights and responsibilities. A parent, person, agency, or department granted legal custody shall exercise the rights and responsibilities personally, unless otherwise restricted by 12 13 the juvenile court.

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- "(17) LEGAL GUARDIAN. A person who has been appointed by a probate court pursuant to the Alabama Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act, Chapter 2A (commencing with Section 26-2A-1) of Title 26 to be a guardian of a person under 19 years of age who has not otherwise had the disabilities of minority removed. This term does not include a quardian ad litem as defined in this section.
- "(18) MINOR. An individual who is under the age of 19 years and who is not a child within the meaning of this chapter.
- "(19) PARENT. The legal mother or the legal father of a child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to this chapter.

"(20) PICK-UP ORDER. In any case before the juvenile court, an order directing any law enforcement officer or other person authorized by this chapter to take a child into custody and to deliver the child to a place of detention, shelter, or other care designated by the juvenile court.

"(21) PROBATION. The legal status created by order of the juvenile court following an adjudication of delinquency or in need of supervision whereby a child is permitted to remain in a community subject to supervision and return to the juvenile court for violation of probation at any time during the period of probation.

"(22) RESIDENTIAL FACILITY. A dwelling, other than a detention or shelter care facility, providing living accommodations, care, treatment, and maintenance for children, including, but not limited to, institutions, foster family homes, group homes, half-way houses, and forestry camps operated, accredited, or licensed by a federal or state department or agency.

"(23) RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Those rights and responsibilities remaining with a parent after a transfer of legal custody of a child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to this chapter, including, but not necessarily limited to, the right of visitation, the right to withhold consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation, and the responsibility for support, unless determined by order of the juvenile court not to be in the best interests of the child.

"(24) SECURE CUSTODY. As used with regard to juvenile detention facilities and the Department of Youth Services, this term means residential facilities with construction features designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of persons in custody such as locked rooms and buildings, including rooms and buildings that contain alarm devices that prevent departure; fences; or other physical structures. This term does not include facilities where physical restriction of movement or activity is provided solely through facility staff.

"(25) SHELTER CARE. The temporary care of children in group homes, foster care, relative placement, or other nonpenal facilities.

"\$16-28-3.

"(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), every child between the ages of six and 17 years shall be required to attend a public school, private school, church school, or be instructed by a competent private tutor for the entire length of the school term in every scholastic year except that, prior to attaining his or her 16th birthday every child attending a church school as defined in Section 16-28-1 is exempt from the requirements of this section, provided such child complies with enrollment and reporting procedure specified in Section 16-28-7. Admission to public school shall be on an individual basis on the application of the parents, legal custodian, or guardian of the child to the local board of education at the beginning of each school year, under such

rules and regulations as the board may prescribe; provided, a person who is 18 years of age and otherwise qualified to attend under 19 years of age and on track to graduate from public school may not be denied admission to public school solely on account of his or her age. The parent, legal custodian, or guardian of a child who is six years of age, may opt out of enrolling their his or her child in school at the age of six years by notifying the local school board of education, in writing, that the child will not be enrolled in school until he or she is seven years of age.

- "(b)(1) If a child withdraws from a public school, upon verification of enrollment in a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or any entity with accreditation status as determined by one of the agencies identified on the United States Department of Education's list of Recognized National and Regional Accrediting Agencies or their affiliates accredited and recognized online school which has been authorized by the Alabama State Department of Education to provide instruction in lieu of in-person instruction, the child shall be counted as a transfer student.
- "(2) If a child returns to a public school, semester exams shall be given to the child to determine grade placement.
- "(3) This subsection does not and should not be interpreted to create on-line online schools. However, if a student chooses to attend an accredited, state authorized

on-line online school, that student's former school should not be penalized by the student being classified as a dropout.

"\$22-52-16**.**

"The provisions of this This article shall does not apply to commitment to the custody of the State Department of Mental Health of individuals under the age of 18 19 years who are mentally ill minors or children.

"\$26-1-1.

- "(a) Any person in this state, at the arrival at the age of 19 years, shall be relieved of his or her disabilities of minority and thereafter shall have the same legal rights and abilities as persons over 21 years of age. No law of this state shall discriminate for or against any person between and including the ages of 19 and 21 years solely on the basis of age.
- "(b) This section shall also apply to any person who arrived at the age of 19 and 20 years before July 22, 1975, but shall not abrogate any defense or abridge any remedy available to him or her prior to such date.
- "(c) All laws or parts of laws which read "under the age of 21 years" hereafter shall read "under the age of 19 years." Wherever the words "under the age of 21 years" appear in any law limiting the legal rights and abilities of persons under such age, such words shall be construed to mean under the age of 19 years.

1	"(d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), nothing in this
2	section shall be deemed to repeal any provision of Chapter 19
3	of Title 15

"(e) Notwithstanding subsection (a), an honorably discharged veteran who is under the age of 19 shall be permitted to enter into a contract for the purchase of a motor vehicle.

"(f) (e) Notwithstanding subsection (a), or any other provision of law to the contrary, a person who is 18 years of age or older may consent to participate in research conducted by a college or university that is accredited by a federally recognized accrediting agency if the research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of the institution.

"(f) Notwithstanding subsection (a), an unemancipated minor who is 18 years old and of sound mind, notwithstanding his or her minority, may enter into a binding contract as may be exercised by an individual of full legal age. The minor, by reason of his or her minority, may not rescind, avoid, or repudiate the contract or rescind, avoid, or repudiate any exercise of a right or privilege under the contract.

"\$26-14-1.

"For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

Τ	"(1) ABUSE. Harm or threatened harm to a child's
2	health or welfare. Harm or threatened harm to a child's health
3	or welfare can occur through nonaccidental physical or mental
4	injury, sexual abuse or attempted sexual abuse, or sexual
5	exploitation or attempted sexual exploitation. "Sexual abuse"
6	includes the employment, use, persuasion, inducement,
7	enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or having a
8	child assist any other person to engage in, any sexually
9	explicit conduct or any simulation of the conduct for the
10	purpose of producing any visual depiction of the conduct; or
11	the rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual
12	exploitation of children, or incest with children as those
13	acts are defined by Alabama law. "Sexual exploitation"
14	includes allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to
15	engage in prostitution and allowing, permitting, encouraging,
16	or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing,
17	filming, or depicting of a child for commercial purposes.
18	"(2) NEGLECT. Negligent treatment or maltreatment of
19	a child, including the failure to provide adequate food,

"(3) CHILD. <u>Either of the following:</u>

medical treatment, supervision, clothing, or shelter.

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- "a. A person under the age of 18 years.
- "b. A person under the age of 19 years who is in need of protective services and does not qualify for adult protective services under Chapter 9 of Title 38.
- "(4) DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY. The chief of police of a municipality or municipality and county; or the sheriff,

if the observation of child abuse or neglect is made in an 1 unincorporated territory; or the Department of Human 2 3 Resources; or any person, organization, corporation, group, or agency authorized and designated by the Department of Human 4 Resources to receive reports of child abuse and neglect; 5 provided, that a "duly constituted authority" shall not include an agency involved in the acts or omissions of the 7 reported child abuse or neglect." 8 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the 9 10 first day of the third month following its passage and 11 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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3	House of Representatives
4 5 6 7	Read for the first time and referred to the House of Representatives committee on Judiciary 04-APR-19
8 9	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 1 amendment 18-APR-19
10 11 12 13	Read for the third time and passed as amended
	Yeas 96, Nays 1, Abstains 0
14 15 16 17	Jeff Woodard Clerk