

SB 208 -- RE-ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE

SPONSOR: Justus (White)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, if a youth less than 18 years of age is released from the custody of the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services, and after the release, it appears that it would be in the youth's best interest to have his or her custody returned to the division, the juvenile officer, the division, or the youth can petition the court to return custody of the youth to the division until the youth is 18. This bill increases the age of the youth from 18 to 21 years of age.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that we need to give foster children a one time opportunity to opt back into the system.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Justus; Office of Child Advocate; Great Circle; Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies; Partnership for Children; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.