

# Michigan's Juvenile Justice Reform Initiatives



## Key Takeaways

Michigan has recently undertaken significant initiatives in juvenile justice to enhance outcomes for young individuals in the justice system. The state's efforts focus on rehabilitation, diversion, and evidence-based solutions to address the unique needs of juvenile offenders.

## Recent Legislative Updates

Amendments introduced in 2023 that pertain to juveniles:

### House Bill 4624

would amend the Social Welfare Act to increase the reimbursement formula for the Child Care Fund, require and allow certain uses of money from the fund, and require certain performance measures.

### House Bill 4627

would amend the juvenile code (Chapter XIIA of the Probate Code) to require a designated individual or agency to conduct a research-validated risk and needs assessment for each juvenile before disposition.

### House Bill 4628

would amend the juvenile code to provide that a juvenile case cannot be placed on the consent calendar unless the court considers the results of a risk screening tool and mental health screening tool conducted by a designated individual or agency.

### House Bill 4629

would amend the juvenile code to provide that an individual or agency designated by the court must use a detention screening tool on a juvenile before the juvenile may be detained in a secure facility pending hearing.

## Michigan's Juvenile Justice Reform Objectives

Formed in 2021 by Executive Order, the Michigan Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform, housed within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), seeks to recommend reform strategies based on data, research, and constitutional principles, with a focus on improving state law, policy, and appropriations, guided by specific objectives, including:

- Safely reduce placement in detention and residential placement and associated costs.
- Increase the safety and well-being of youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's and counties' juvenile justice systems.
- Increase accountability and transparency within the juvenile justice system.
- Better align practices with research and constitutional mandates.

To discuss juvenile justice solutions such as risk/needs and mental health screening tools, contact Orbis.

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