

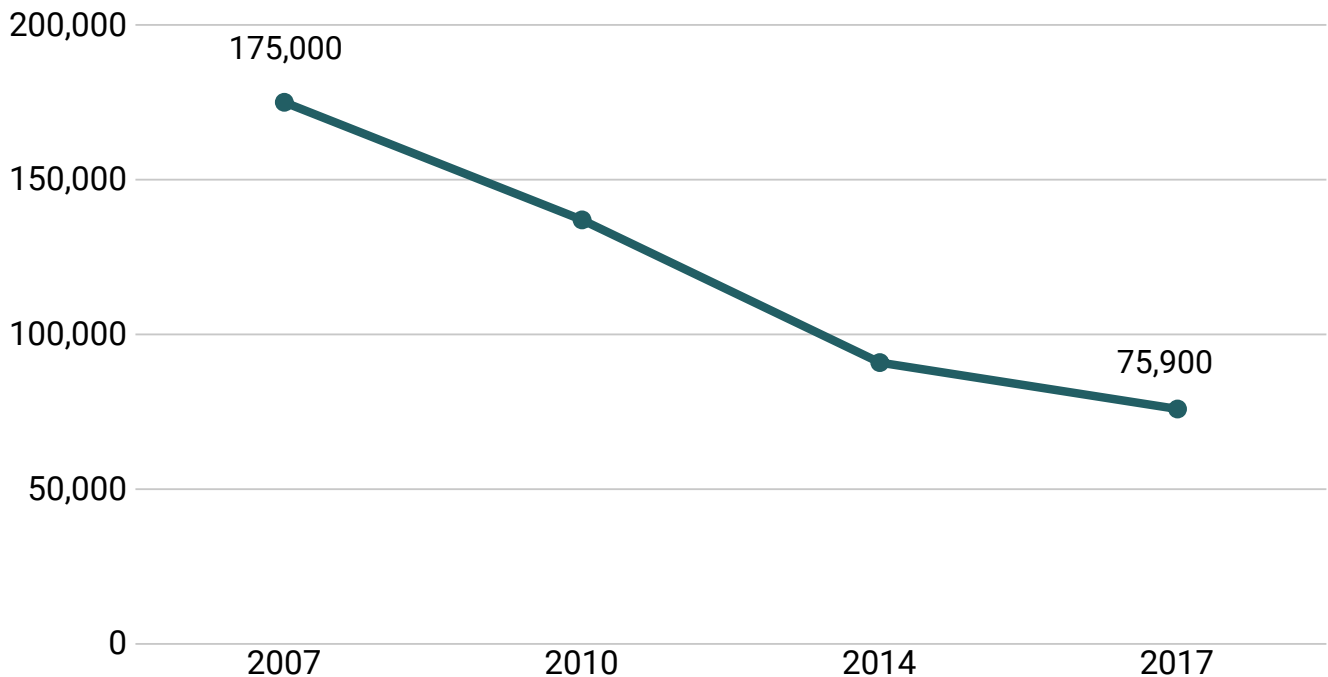
# Raise the Age Reforms

2016-2019



Motivate. Advocate. Activate.

# Raise the Age Reforms



## YOUTH PROSECUTED AS ADULTS (2007-2017)

**Citation:** Justice Policy Institute, *Raise the Age: Shifting to a Safe and Effective Juvenile Justice System* (2017) and Charles Puzzanhera, Melissa Sickmund, & Anthony Sladky, *Youth Younger than 18 Prosecuted in Criminal Court: National Estimate, 2015 Cases*, 2 (2018).

From 2016 to 2019, five states (Louisiana, South Carolina, New York, North Carolina, and Missouri) have passed and signed legislation to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to eighteen, so that most or all of their sixteen and/or seventeen-year-olds would start in juvenile court instead of automatically being prosecuted in adult court.

Only four states remain that automatically treat all seventeen-year-olds as adults without legislation passed and signed by the Governor to change the law in the near future: Georgia, Michigan, Texas and Wisconsin. This reform known as “raise the age” started nearly fifteen years ago when fourteen states were still treating all of their sixteen and/or seventeen-year-olds as adults. The reform is widely bipartisan and has garnered support from groups like ALEC, Right on Crime, the National Sheriffs’ Association, and the National Association of Social Workers. There is broad based agreement that youth should have the opportunity to be treated as youth.

**SOUTH CAROLINA- S.B. 916 (2016)  
& BUDGET PROVISIO 67.14**



Senator Gerald Malloy (D)



Senator Mike Fair (R)



Senator M.B. Matthews (D)

On June 6, 2016, former Governor Nikki Haley signed South Carolina's law to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to eighteen, S. 916, which passed both chambers unanimously. This effort was led by sponsors Senator Gerald Malloy, former Senator Michael Fair, and Senator M.B. Matthews. The law not only raised the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from seventeen to eighteen, but it also raised the minimum age at which a youth could be statutorily excluded from juvenile court for certain felonies from sixteen to seventeen. The law took effect on July 1, 2019 as a result of budget proviso 67.14 triggering implementation of the law.

**LOUISIANA- S.B. 324 (2016)**



Senator J.P. Morell (D)



Representative Sherman Q.  
Mack (R)

On June 14, 2016, Governor Bel Edwards signed SB 324 to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in Louisiana. Senator J.P. Morrell and Representative Sherman Q. Mack led this bipartisan effort for youth justice reform. Implementation of the law started on March 1, 2019 for seventeen-year-old charged with an offense that is not a crime of violence. The law will be fully implemented on July 1, 2020 for seventeen-year-olds charged with crimes of violence.



## NEW YORK A.3009C/S. 2009C (2017)



Governor Andrew Cuomo (D)

On April 2017, Governor Cuomo signed budget bills A.3009c/S 2009c which raised the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in New York. New York was one of the final two states to still treat all of its sixteen and seventeen-year-olds as adults. New York raised the age for sixteen-year-olds on October 1, 2018 and will raise the age for seventeen-year-olds on October 1, 2019.

## NORTH CAROLINA H.B. 280 / S.B. 257(2017)



Representative Chuck McGrady (R)

In 2017, Representative Chuck McGrady led the legislative effort to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in North Carolina so that sixteen and seventeen-year-olds would no longer be automatically treated as adults. By May 2017, North Carolina was the final state in the country that still treated all sixteen and seventeen-year-olds as adults without legislation passed and signed by the Governor to change the law in the near future. McGrady successfully shepherded a bill, HB 280 (Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act), through the House on a 104 to 8 vote. Language from the bill was added to the state's budget, SB 257 and was approved by the legislature on June 28, 2017. The law takes effect on December 1, 2019.

## MISSOURI - S.B. 793 (2018)



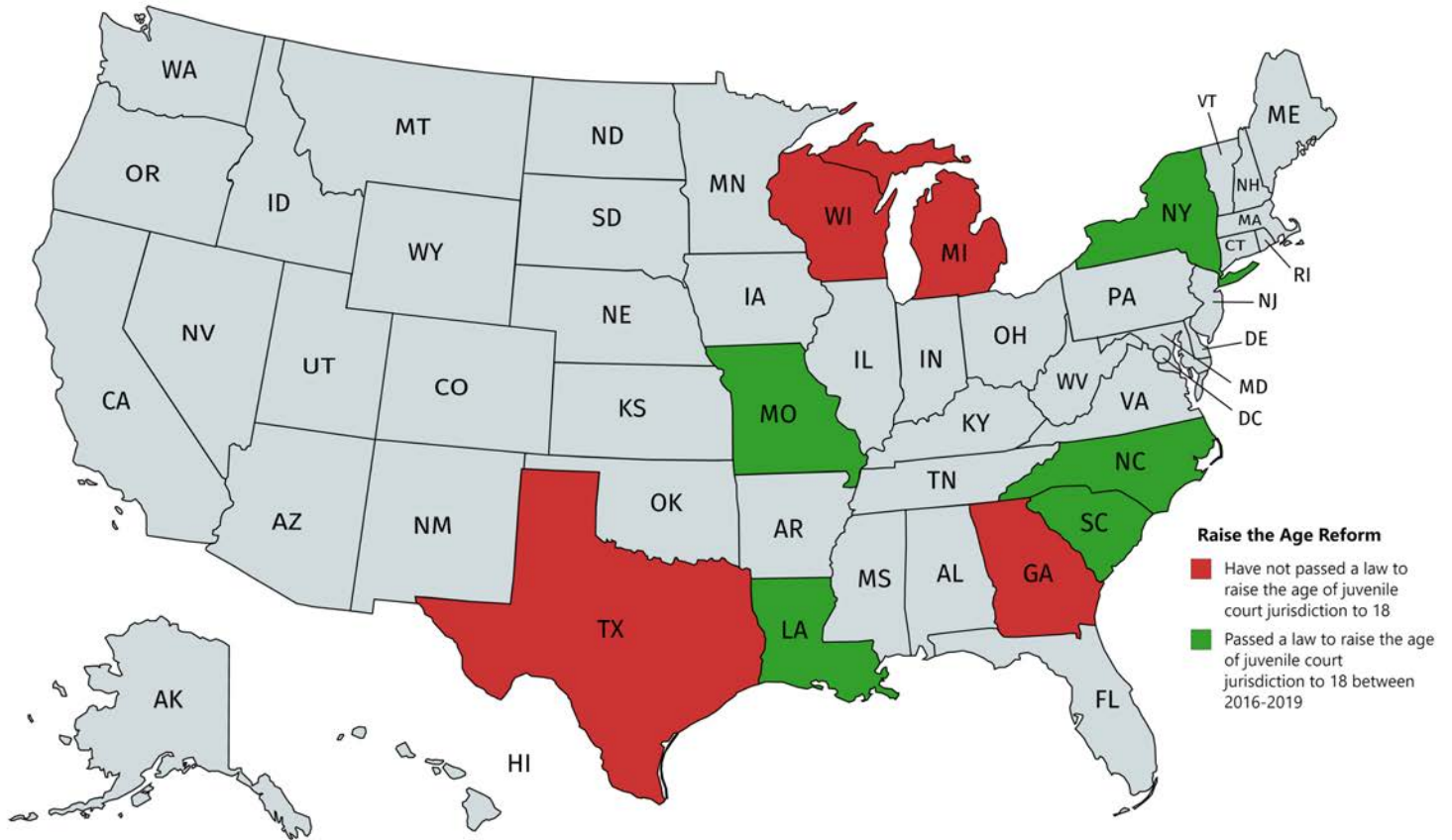
Senator Wayne Wallingford (R)




Representative Nick Schroer (R)

On June 1, 2018, former Governor Eric Greitens signed SB 793 to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction in Missouri so that seventeen-year-olds would start in juvenile court instead of adult court. This effort was led by Senator Wayne Wallingford and Representative Nick Schroer. Implementation of the law will start in January 2021.

# Raise the Age Reform



CAMPAIGN FOR  
YOUTH  JUSTICE

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR