
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

- Modifies the composition of the Department of Youth Services Release Authority to a minimum of three but not more than five members.

Release Authority

(R.C. 5139.50)

The bill modifies the composition of the Release Authority in the Department of Youth Services. Under the bill, the Release Authority must consist of a minimum of three but not more than five members. Under current law, the Release Authority consists of five or perhaps six members.¹⁸⁵

Under the bill, the Director of Youth Services must ensure that appointments include all the following:

(1) At least one member who has five or more years of experience in criminal justice, juvenile justice, or an equivalent relevant profession;

(2) At least one member who has experience in victim services or advocacy or who has been a victim of a crime or is a family member of a victim; and

(3) At least one member who has experience in direct care services to delinquent children.

Current law requires that at least four members be appointed who meet this qualification described in (1) above.

The Release Authority serves as the final and sole authority for making decisions, in the interests of public safety and the children involved, regarding the release and discharge of children committed to the legal custody of the Department.

¹⁸⁵ The bill resolves an ambiguity in current law. The ambiguity makes it uncertain whether the Release Authority consists of five or six members.

