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MASS. SENATE

Economic development bill loaded with policy, \$2.86B

By Alison Kuznitz
State House News Service

BOSTON » More teenagers could be prosecuted in the juvenile court system under a policy that senators tacked onto their sweeping \$2.86 billion economic development bill during delib-

erations Thursday. Senators unanimously engrossed the sprawling package (S 2856), seen as a critical tool for maintaining the commonwealth's successful life sciences sector and making a similar massive investment in the climate tech landscape, on a

unanimous 40-0 vote just before midnight. Under the reform, most 18-year-olds would be tried as juveniles instead of as adults, aside from those who commit serious crimes like murder. They would instead be directed to programming that better

aligns with their brain development and aims to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. With Senate President Karen Spilka at the rostrum, senators adopted the amendment, championed by top Democrats includ-



Sen. Barry Finegold and Rep. Jerald Parisella, co-chairs of the Joint Economic Development Committee, listen to testimony from Gov. Maura Healey on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. **BILL** » PAGE 4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL

'RAISE THE AGE,' LOCAL PROJECT FUNDING GET BOOST



UTEC young adult Fredo Estevez at the Massachusetts State House July 11, 2024 as the state Senate passed its version of an economic development bond bill. That version included the "Raise the Age" amendment, an initiative long sought by UTEC meant to reduce criminal recidivism in young adults by raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction in the state's criminal justice system to 18. **BOOST** » PAGE 8

Senate, House to hash out differences between two versions

By Peter Currier
pcurrier@lowellsun.com

BOSTON » The passage of the state Senate's \$2.86 billion version of the economic development bond bill Thursday night marked a potentially massive step forward for multiple high-profile local projects in Greater

Lowell, and for an effort to pass "Raise the Age" legislation. With many differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill, it will now be sent to a conference committee to hash out the differences and produce a final version to be voted on. Those differences include specific projects being left

out of one version, some projects receiving different funding amounts in each version, and other forms of legislation like the Raise the Age amendment, which was not included in the House version, but was included as an amendment in the Senate version. The Raise the Age amend-

ment, sponsored by state Sen. Brendan Crighton, aims to reduce criminal recidivism among young adults in Massachusetts by raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction in the state's criminal justice system to 18. This means that 18-year-olds, while still legal adults, could be tried as juve-

TECHNOLOGY

'This could impact people's private lives'

Data of nearly all AT&T customers downloaded to a third-party platform in security breach

By Michelle Chapman
AP Business Writer

The data of nearly all customers of the telecommunications giant AT&T was downloaded to a third-party platform in a security breach, the company said Friday, as cyberattacks against businesses, schools and health systems continue to spread globally. The breach, most of which took place over five months in 2022, hit customers of AT&T's cellular customers, customers of mobile virtual network operators using AT&T's wireless network, as well as its landline customers who interacted with those cellular numbers. Approximately 109 million customer accounts were impacted, according to AT&T, which said that it currently doesn't believe that the data is publicly available. "The data does not contain the content of calls or texts, personal information such as Social Security numbers, dates of birth, or other personally identifiable information," AT&T said Friday. The compromised data also doesn't include some information typically seen in usage details, such as the time stamp of calls or texts, the company said, or customer names. AT&T, however, said that there are often ways using publicly available online tools to find the name associated with a specific telephone number. Cyber security experts concurred, saying that such data can be used to trace users. "While the information that was exposed doesn't directly have sensitive information, it can be used to piece together events and who may be calling who. This could impact people's private lives as private calls and connections could be exposed," Thomas Richards, principal consultant at Synopsys Software Integrity Group, **AT&T** » PAGE 8



AP PHOTO/MARK LENNIHAN, FILE The AT&T logo is positioned above one of its retail stores in New York, Oct. 24, 2016.

Boost

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niles if accused of a crime. In a statement, UTEC CEO Gregg Croteau thanked all of the senators who voiced their support in favor of the amendment.

"We believe this provides young people the opportunity for redemption while also ensuring positive steps for improving public safety for all," Croteau said. "We look forward to working with many other legislative champions and community partners to send this legislation to Governor Healey's desk for approval."

Fredo Estevez, 26, who recently graduated from UTEC's program, said if organizations like UTEC that advocate for young adults like him did not exist, he wouldn't be around today.

"After more than a year advocating to raise the age with UTEC, it was great to be at the State House to see it actually get passed. I believe in young people and I think we deserve a chance or even multiple opportunities at getting things right," said Estevez in a statement Friday. "I believe in raising

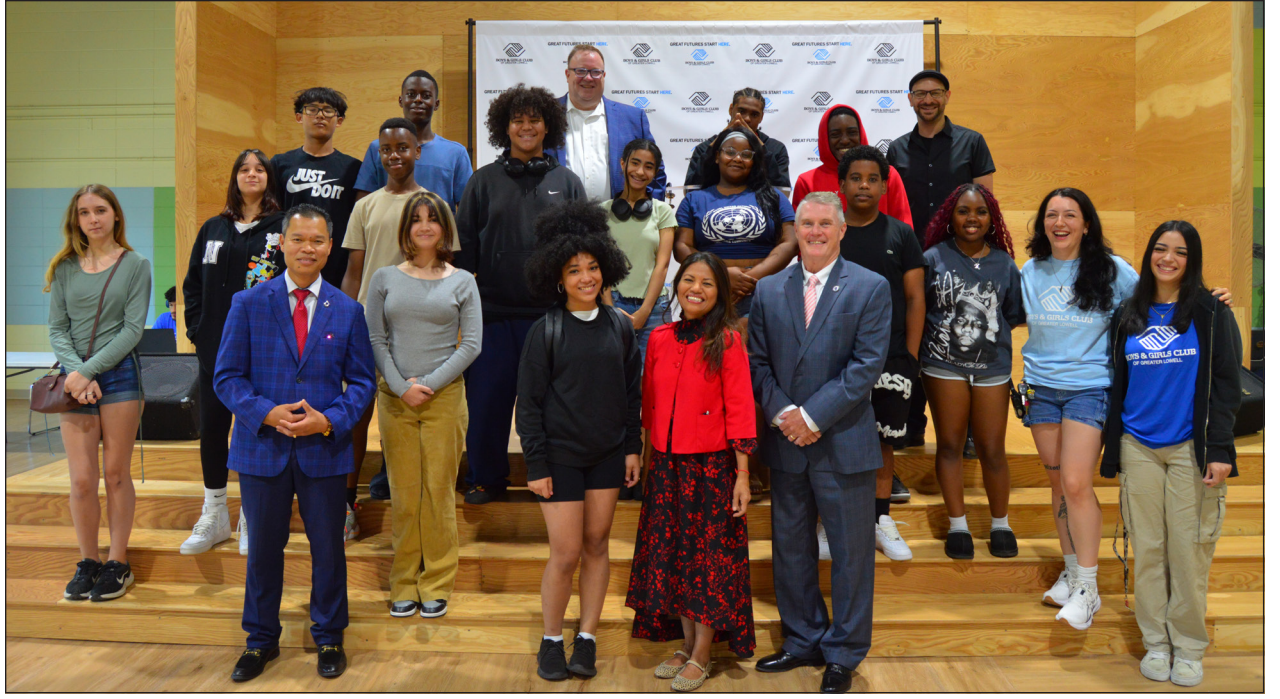
the age especially because it guarantees education for young people and allows for rehabilitation."

In a statement to the Boston Herald Friday, Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan called the Raise the Age effort a "commonsense approach" to helping young adults.

"I know well the profound impact that the criminal system can have on the lives of young people. This amendment addresses a significant disparity: 17 and 18-year-olds in the same high school class who can face vastly different outcomes, even when charged with the same offense," said Ryan.

Both versions of the bill included funding for specific projects as requested by members of the House and Senate for their districts. In the Senate version, Sen. Ed Kennedy successfully sponsored an amendment to provide the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell with \$5 million in funding for its ongoing Believe & Become Campaign to expand and remodel its Middlesex Street facility in Lowell.

"I am very happy that my fellow senators saw the value in this ongoing effort



PETER CURRIER — LOWELL SUN

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell members gathered with state and club officials July 2, 2024 to celebrate the state House of Representatives' passage of An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts' Economic Leadership. Now in the hands of the Senate, the House version of the bill includes a \$2 million bonding authorization that will help fund the club's ongoing Believe & Become Campaign if it is included in Gov. Maura Healey's capital plan.

at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell by graciously supporting this amendment. I hope my colleagues in the House will contact their conference committee members and ask them to support the Senate amount in the final conference com-

mittee version of the bill," said Kennedy.

The House version of the bill allocated \$2 million for the Boys & Girls Club project in an amendment sponsored by state Reps. Rady Mom, Rodney Elliott and Vanna Howard.

delegation recognizes the impact the Club has and how that impact will be strengthened as a result of the Believe & Become project," Mom said in a statement. I was proud to start the process in the House along with Reps. Howard and Elliott, securing \$2 million for this deserving project. The delegation hoped to secure \$5 million in the bill and Senator Kennedy's hard work and dedication in the Senate made it possible to get us to that final number."

Kennedy sponsored a total of \$10 million in project funding amendments for his district, including an additional \$600,000 each for restorations of the Lawrence Library in Pepperell and the development of a new public works headquarters in Tyngsboro, and \$1.3 million for a water main replacement in Dunstable. He also sponsored an amendment to provide an additional \$2.5 million for the Lowell Community Health Center to support renovations for its Family Medicine Residency Program. A similar amendment was sponsored by Howard in the House version.

One amendment from the Greater Lowell House delegation that did not make it into the Senate version was from Rep. Marc Lombardo to provide \$5 million in funding for improvements to the Billerica Town Center and Boston Road, though the funding could be included in the conference committee version.

Some of the amendments concerned policy, including one sponsored by Kennedy and a group of other senators to set a definition for agritourism, and an amendment to modernize the chiropractic internship program.

Sen. Cindy Friedman filed a successful amendment to admit Massachusetts into the national nurse licensure compact, which allows nurses to carry multistate licenses and work in

other states admitted into the compact. The bond bill, Friedman said, will heavily invest in areas like climate tech, artificial intelligence, life sciences and support for small businesses.

"This bill provides increased support for our leading industries of climate technology and life sciences, while also paving the way for continued development of our artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing industries, further elevating Massachusetts on the nationwide and global stage in economic competitiveness," said Friedman.

Sen. Barry Finegold said in a statement that the overall bill helps Massachusetts "remain competitive in a changing global and national economy."

"This economic development bill bolsters our state's competitiveness by strengthening sectors we already excel in and creating pathways to secure the lead in emerging fields," said Finegold.

Sen. Jamie Eldridge filed a successful amendment to include a provision in the bill allowing for farmer brewers, distilleries and wineries to sell their products at farmers' markets. He also filed an amendment to add another \$1 million of funding for improvements to Route 2 in Acton and Concord.

Kennedy pointed out that the bill still has a long way to go, as it has to go through the conference committee before another vote by each chamber to send it to the governor's desk. Even if it passes with all of the funding amendments, Kennedy said the funding will only become available if Gov. Maura Healey chooses to include it in her capital plan budget. The bill is good for five years, Kennedy said, which means if funding for a project is not included in the governor's capital plan the first year, it could still be included in any of the remaining four years.



COURTESY MICHELLE MURPHY OF UTEC

Members of UTEC, Lowell's youth violence intervention, reentry and advocacy program, testified before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary in support of the Raise the Age legislation. From left, Viengsamay "Paul" Chaleunphong, UTEC reentry manager; Charles "Castro" Rosario, UTEC streetworker fellow; Marcos Estevez and Mary Gomez, UTEC young adults; and the organization's CEO Gregg Croteau.

Elliott said in a phone call Friday that he expects the conference committee to settle on the \$5 million in funding for the club.

"I want to thank Sen. Kennedy for his support and commitment to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, ensuring our children have access to a safe, enriched and trusted environment in our city," said Howard.

Mom said after the Senate passed its version that the funding for the club would serve to close the academic achievement gap and help the club provide workforce development training for its youth.

"This amendment in the Economic Development Bill happens because every member of the Lowell

AT&T

FROM PAGE 1

said in an emailed statement. "The business phone numbers will be easy to identify and private numbers can be matched to names with public record searches."

An internal investigation determined that compromised data includes AT&T records of calls and texts between May 1, 2022 and Oct. 31, 2022.

AT&T identified the third-party platform as Snowflake and said that the incident was limited to an AT&T workspace on that cloud company's platform and did not impact its network.

Cyber security experts say the sheer volume of data held by companies on cloud platforms can create its own perils.

"The AT&T data breach underscores the growing risks associated with the vast amounts of data companies now store on cloud and SaaS platforms," said Roei Sherman, Field Chief Technology Officer at Mitiga, a threat detection and investigation company that focuses on cloud technology. "As organizations increasingly rely on these technologies, the complexity of detecting and investigating breaches has risen sharply." AT&T's investigation is

ongoing and it has engaged with cybersecurity experts to understand the nature and scope of the criminal breach. At least one person has been apprehended so far, according to the company.

Compromised data also includes records from Jan. 2, 2023, for a very small number of customers. The records identify the telephone numbers an AT&T or MVNO cellular number interacted with during these periods. For a subset of records, one or more cell site identification number(s) associated with the interactions are also included.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said that it has worked collaboratively with AT&T and the Justice Department "through the first and second delay process, all while sharing key threat intelligence to bolster FBI investigative equities and to assist AT&T's incident response work."

The Department of Justice said Friday that it became aware of the breach early this year, but that it met the security standard for a delayed filing by AT&T with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, a filing that was made public Friday.

The DOJ said an earlier disclosure of the breach would "pose a substantial risk to national security and public safety."

The Federal Communications Commission is also investigating.

The year has already been marked by several major data breaches, including an earlier attack on AT&T. In March AT&T said that a dataset found on the "dark web" contained information such as Social Security numbers for about 7.6 million current AT&T account holders and 65.4 million former account holders.

Some auto dealerships are still using pens and paper to close deals after back-to-back cyberattacks last month on a company that supplies them with software. That company, CDK Global, is still attempting to reestablish normal operations.

Alabama's education superintendent said earlier this month that some data was "breached" during a hacking attempt at the Alabama State Department of Education.

Cybersecurity experts are warning that hospital systems around the country, which have already been targeted, are at risk for more attacks and that the U.S. government is doing too little to prevent breaches.

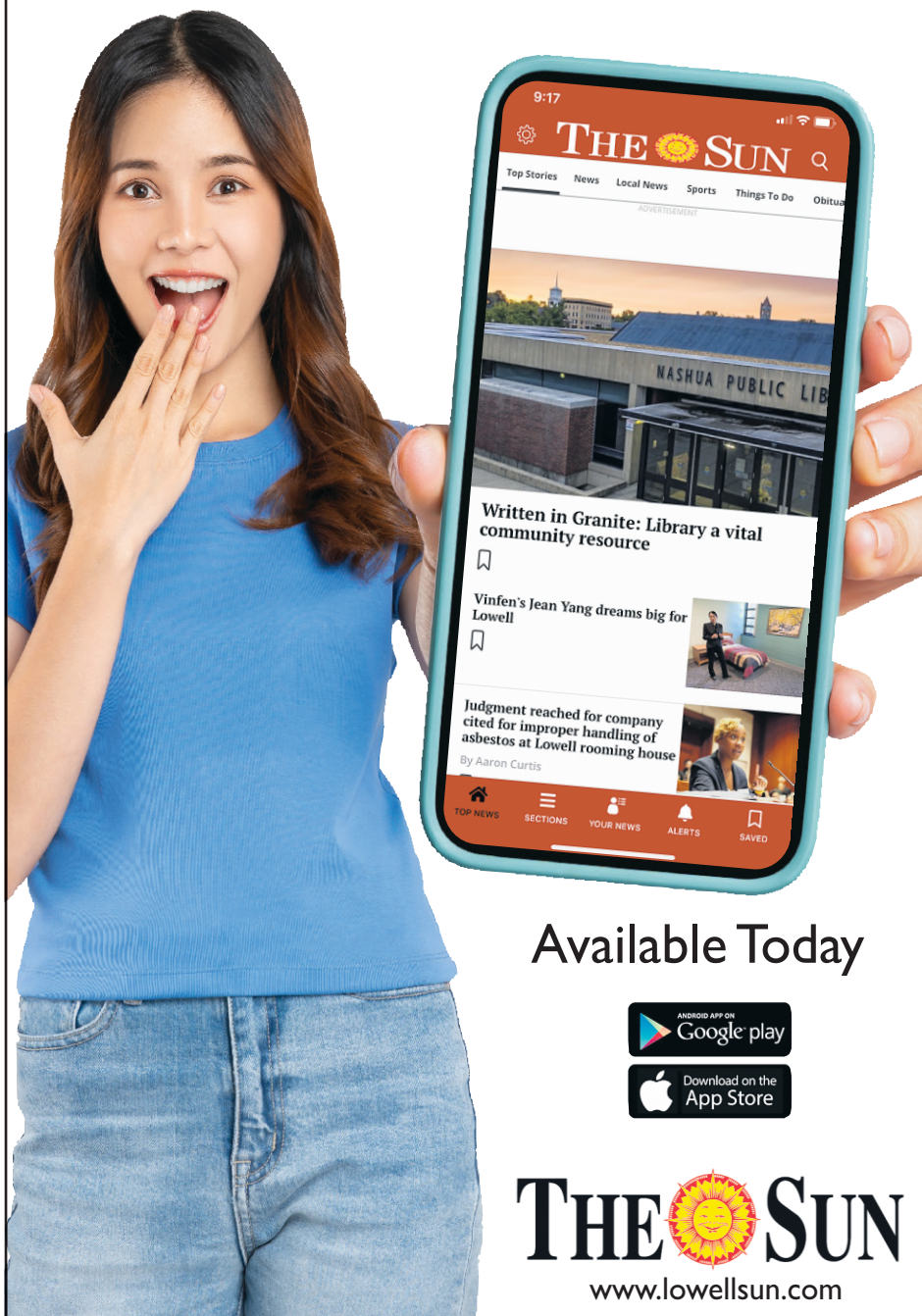
AT&T customers can visit att.com/DataIncident for more information.

Shares of AT&T Inc., based in Dallas, fell slightly on Friday.

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