SLS 21RS-120 **REENGROSSED**

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 9

1

BY SENATOR PRICE (On Recommendation of the Louisiana State Law Institute)

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CHILDREN'S CODE. Provides relative to continuous revision of the Children's Code. (8/1/21)

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact Children's Code Arts. 603(2)(e), 680, 1022, and 1226, R.S. 13:1139
3	and 1587.1(C), R.S. 15:1082, 1098.1(A), and 1099.1, R.S. 24:175(B) and 176(B),
4	R.S. 44:3(A)(6), and R.S. 46:1251(B), 1901(B), 2411, and 2417(C), and to repeal
5	Children's Code Art. 606(A)(6), (7), and (8), relative to the continuous revision of
6	the Children's Code; to provide for definitions; to provide for the grounds for a child
7	in need of care; to provide for the rights of the parties in a disposition hearing; to
8	provide for service of nonresident parents; to provide for references to the Children's
9	Code; to provide for Comments; and to provide for related matters.
10	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
11	Section 1. Children's Code Arts. 603(2)(e), 680, 1022, and 1226 are hereby amended
12	and reenacted to read as follows:
13	Art. 603. Definitions
14	As used in this Title:
15	* * *
16	(2) "Abuse" means any one of the following acts which seriously endanger
17	the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:

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1	* * *
2	(e) Female genital mutilation as defined by R.S. 14:43.4 of the child or of
3	a sister of the child.
4	* * *
5 6 7	Comments - 2021 This revision incorporates the substance of Subparagraphs (A)(6), (7), and (8) of Article 606 within the definition of "abuse" in this Article. "Commercial
8 9 10 11	sexual exploitation" as referenced in Subparagraph (2)(b) is defined in Paragraph (9.1) and already incorporates human trafficking (R.S. 14:46) and trafficking of children for sexual purposes (R.S. 14:46.3), which had previously been duplicated in Article 606(A)(6) and (7). Subparagraph (2)(e) is revised to include language from Article 606(A)(8) with regard to female genital mutilation of a sister of the child.
13	* * *
14	Art. 680. Disposition hearing; rights of parties; evidence
15	A. All parties have the right to testify, the right to confront and
16	cross-examine adverse witnesses, the right to present evidence and witnesses.
17	and the right to counsel.
18	B. The court shall consider the report of the predisposition investigation, the
19	case plan, any reports of mental evaluation, and all other evidence offered by the
20	child or the state parties relating to the proper disposition. The court may consider
21	evidence which would not be admissible at the adjudication hearing.
22	* * *
23	Art. 1022. Service; nonresident parent
24	If a parent against whom a proceeding is instituted does not reside within this
25	state, service of citation shall be made by registered or certified mail to the address
26	indicated in the petition, return receipt required, not less than five days prior to
27	commencement of the hearing on the matter.
28	* * *
29	Art. 1226. Service; nonresident parent
30	If a parent upon whom service is required under Article 1224 does not reside
31	within this state, service shall be made by registered or certified mail to the address
32	indicated in the petition, return receipt required, not less than thirty days prior to

commencement of the hearing on the petition.

33

Section 2. R.S. 13:1139 and 1587.1(C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1139. Transfer of cases

A. Repealed by Acts 2011, No. 340, §3, eff. June 29, 2011.

B: It is the express intent of this Section that the jurisdiction conferred by law, particularly the Louisiana Code of Juvenile Procedure Children's Code, upon; Orleans Parish Juvenile Court shall be the same as it was prior to the enactment of Act 620 of 1976 and shall remain unchanged, except as otherwise provided in the Louisiana Code of Juvenile Procedure Children's Code. Said The court shall continue to be known as Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, notwithstanding its change of name effected by Act 620 of the Regular Session of the Legislature of 1976 and the subsequent repeal of the provisions of said that Act shall not be construed or interpreted to change its jurisdiction, its powers, its duties, its various departments or its personnel, except as herein set forth and provided.

* * *

§1587.1. Juvenile Court of the parish of Orleans; clerk of court; bailiffs; minute clerks; stenographers and other personnel; probation officers

* * *

C. All employees of the probation department and probation services for the Juvenile Court for the Parish of Orleans on and after the effective date of this Act shall be transferred to and provided by the **Louisiana** Department of Health and Human Resources in accordance with existing statutes, subject to the rules and regulations of the Louisiana civil service system or its successor. The duties of probation officers shall be fixed in accordance with the provisions of the **Children's** Code of Juvenile Procedure and of R.S. 46:1251 through R.S. 46:1256. The salaries, related benefits, and operational expenses incurred in the provision of probation services shall be at the expense of the state and sufficient funds therefor shall be budgeted by the legislature.

* * *

1	Section 3. R.S. 15:1082, 1098.1(A), and 1099.1 are hereby amended and reenacted
2	to read as follows:
3	§1082. Definitions
4	The definitions provided in R.S. 13:1569 and in Article 13 of the code of
5	juvenile procedure the Children's Code shall be applicable to this Part, unless the
6	context clearly indicates otherwise.
7	* * *
8	§1098.1. Construction of Subpart; controlling law
9	A. To the extent that the provisions of this Subpart are inconsistent with any
10	other statutory law, the provisions of this Subpart shall be deemed considered
11	controlling, except that all provisions of the Children's Code of Juvenile Procedure
12	relative to the placement of juveniles in shelter care facilities and detention centers
13	shall be deemed considered controlling.
14	* * *
15	§1099.1. Construction of Subpart; controlling law
16	To the extent that the provisions of this Subpart are inconsistent with any
17	other statutory law, the provisions of this Subpart shall be deemed considered
18	controlling, except that all provisions of the Children's Code of Juvenile Procedure
19	relative to the placement of juveniles in shelter care facilities and detention centers
20	shall be deemed considered controlling.
21	Section 4. R.S. 24:175(B) and 176(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
22	follows:
23	§175. Severability
24	* * *
25	B. This Section shall apply to acts of the legislature affecting general, and
26	local and special laws, and statutes of the state, including the Louisiana Revised
27	Statutes of 1950, the Civil Code of the state of Louisiana, the Louisiana Code of
28	Civil Procedure, the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure, the Louisiana Code of
29	Evidence, and the Louisiana Children's Code of Juvenile Procedure.

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1	§176. Repeal
2	* * *
3	B. This Section shall apply to acts of the legislature affecting general, and
4	local and special laws, and statutes of the state, including the Louisiana Revised
5	Statutes of 1950, the Civil Code of the state of Louisiana, the Louisiana Code of
6	Civil Procedure, the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure, the Louisiana Code of
7	Evidence, and the Louisiana Children's Code of Juvenile Procedure.
8	Section 5. R.S. 44:3(A)(6) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
9	§3. Records of prosecutive, investigative, and law enforcement agencies and
10	communications districts
11	A. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to require disclosures of
12	records, or the information contained therein, held by the offices of the attorney
13	general, district attorneys, sheriffs, police departments, Department of Public Safety
14	and Corrections, marshals, investigators, public health investigators, correctional
15	agencies, communications districts, intelligence agencies, Council on Peace Officer
16	Standards and Training, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and
17	Administration of Criminal Justice, or publicly owned water districts of the state,
18	which records are:
19	* * *
20	(6) Records concerning status offenders as defined in the Children's Code
21	of Juvenile Procedure.
22	* * *
23	Section 6. R.S. 46:1251(B), 1901(B), 2411, and 2417(C) are hereby amended and
24	reenacted to read as follows:
25	§1251. Juvenile probation; parole and intake services
26	* * *
27	B. The intake service provided hereunder shall be limited to examining and
28	evaluating complaints that a child is a delinquent or is a child in need of supervision

and advising the district attorney whether the best interests of the child would be

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served by the initiation of proceedings under the Children's Code of Juvenile				
Procedure, the signing of an informal adjustment agreement, referral to the				
Department of Children and Family Services, referral to a public or private agency				
for assistance, or any other legally permissible course of action. The personnel				
assigned to perform these duties shall not assume any prosecutorial functions except				
for the filing of a petition as authorized by the Children's Code of Juvenile				
Procedure Art. 45.				

* * *

§1901. Definitions

* * *

B. When used in this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them by R.S. 13:1569 or the Children's Code of Juvenile Procedure Article 13.

* * *

§2411. Definitions

Except where the context clearly indicates otherwise in this Chapter:

- (1) "Case permanency plan" means the plan specified by R.S. 46:2418.
- (2) "Case progress report" means the report specified by R.S. 46:2419.
- (3) "Court" means any court which is exercising juvenile jurisdiction pursuant to the Louisiana constitution and Code of Juvenile Procedure Constitution of Louisiana and the Children's Code. If any court is comprised of separate divisions or sections, each such division or section shall be deemed a court for the purposes of this Chapter. Where applicable, "court" shall refer to the particular court which exercises juvenile jurisdiction over the child whose case is to be reviewed.
 - (4)(2) "Department" means the Department of Children and Family Services.
- (5)(3) "Foster care" means the provision of temporary twenty-four hour care for a child for a planned period of time, when the child is placed away from his parents or other person acting as his parent, and when the child is placed in a foster family home, group home, or other child caring facility, but remains under the

supervision of the department.

(6)(4) "Mature child" means a child who is able to understand the circumstances and implications of the situation in which he is involved and is able to participate in the decision-making process without excessive anxiety or fear. A child who is fourteen years of age or older is presumed to be a mature child.

(7)(5) "Parent" means the biological or adoptive parent whose parental rights toward the child have not been terminated.

(8)(6) "Records" means any information in written form, pictures, photographs, charts, graphs, recordings, or documents pertaining to the case being reviewed.

* * *

§2417. Notification to local citizen review board of new cases

* *

C. Whenever a child has been placed in the custody of the department, voluntarily and not through a court proceeding, for reasons other than delinquency or need of supervision, as defined in Article 13 of the Children's Code of Juvenile Procedure, the department shall, within ten days, forward a copy of the placement agreement to the clerk of court in the judicial district where the child is located. The clerk of the court shall forward the placement agreement to a local citizen review board appointed by the court. If a judicial proceeding is subsequently commenced in another court, the citizen review board shall forward to the court where proceedings are pending all documents, records, and written information in its possession relative to the case. The receiving court shall make and retain additional copies of the case permanency plan, case progress reports, and observations and recommendations of the local citizen review board and shall assign the case and forward all documents, records, and written information to a new local board.

Section 7. Children's Code Art. 606(A)(6), (7), and (8) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 8. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to print the following

Comment to Children's Code Art. 606:

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Comments - 2021

This revision removes Subparagraphs (A)(6), (7), and (8) as separate grounds that a child is in need of care and incorporates the substance of those provisions within the definition of "abuse" in Article 603.

The original instrument was prepared by Jerry G. Jones. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jeanne Johnston.

DIGEST

SB 9 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

Price

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 603) provides definitions of "abuse".

<u>Proposed law</u> revises <u>present law</u> to incorporate into the definition of "abuse" allegations of grounds that a child is in need of care.

<u>Present law</u> (Ch.C. Art. 680) provides for the evidence a court shall consider at a child in need of care disposition hearing.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and additionally provides for the due process rights of the parties at a child in need of care disposition hearing.

<u>Present law</u> (Ch.C. Arts. 1022 and 1226) requires service on nonresident parents to be made by registered mail.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and also authorizes service on nonresident parents to be made by certified mail.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 13:1139 and 1587.1(C), R.S. 15:1082, 1098.1(A), and 1099.1, R.S. 24:175(B) and 176(B), R.S. 44:3(A)(6), and R.S. 46:1251(B), 1901(B), 2411, and 2417(C)) refers to the Code of Juvenile Procedure.

<u>Proposed law</u> updates outdated references to the Code of Juvenile Procedure with correct references to the Children's Code and makes other technical corrections.

<u>Present law</u> (Ch.C. Art. 606) sets forth the grounds for a child to be determined to be in need of care.

<u>Proposed law</u> repeals certain grounds under <u>present law</u> as duplicative of the definition of "abuse" and directs the Law Institute to print an explanatory Comment.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 603(2)(e), 680, 1022, and 1226, R.S. 13:1139 and 1587.1(C), R.S. 15:1082, 1098.1(A), and 1099.1, R.S. 24:175(B) and 176(B), R.S. 44:3(A)(6), and R.S. 46:1251(B), 1901(B), 2411, and 2417(C); repeals Ch.C. Art. 606(A)(6)-(8))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Make technical corrections.

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