
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

SB 74 Engrossed

DIGEST
2025 Regular Session

Seabaugh

Present law provides that special juvenile courts will have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all criminal matters involving juveniles in their respective jurisdictions. Present law further provides that parish and city courts each have concurrent jurisdiction for their territorial limits with their respective district courts over criminal matters involving juveniles unless a separate juvenile court, with exclusive original jurisdiction, has been established for the respective parish.

Proposed law removes exclusive jurisdiction over juvenile criminal cases from special juvenile courts and allows juvenile criminal cases to be heard by district, parish, or city courts in certain circumstances. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that a juvenile is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the juvenile court if he was 15 years of age or older prior to allegedly committing certain felonies until either an indictment is returned or the juvenile court holds a continued custody hearing and finds probable cause that he committed the alleged offense. Present law also provides that the district attorney has discretion to proceed under either the Children's Code or the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Proposed law provides that a district attorney, or the attorney general if sitting as a district attorney ad hoc, will have the discretion to transfer any case before a special juvenile court to a district, parish, or city court in certain circumstances.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 302, 305, and 412(A) and (E)(2)(a))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Delete proposed law giving certain courts exclusive original jurisdiction over certain juvenile cases.
2. Authorize district attorneys, or the attorney general if sitting as a district attorney ad hoc, to transfer juvenile criminal matters from special juvenile courts to district, parish, or city courts in certain circumstances.

3. Remove proposed law requiring certain juvenile felony cases to be transferred from juvenile courts to district courts.
4. Make technical changes.