

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 517

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

JUVENILE PROCEDURE: Provides for the right to a jury trial for certain juvenile offenders

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 808, relative to constitutional rights of
3 accused delinquents; to provide relative to the right to a jury trial; to provide a right
4 to a jury trial for a juvenile charged with certain offenses; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Children's Code Article 808 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:

9 Art. 808. Constitutional rights of accused delinquents

10 A. All rights guaranteed to criminal defendants by the Constitution of the
11 United States or the Constitution of Louisiana, ~~except the right to jury trial~~, shall be
12 applicable in juvenile court proceedings brought ~~under~~ pursuant to this Title.

13 B. The right to a jury trial does not apply to juvenile court proceedings
14 brought pursuant to this Title unless the juvenile is charged with a felony-grade
15 delinquent act that constitutes either a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B)
16 or a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 517 Original

2026 Regular Session

Wilford Carter

Abstract: Provides for the right to a jury trial for certain juvenile offenders.

Present law provides that all constitutional rights guaranteed to criminal defendants, except the right to a jury trial, apply in juvenile court proceedings.

Proposed law generally retains present law relative to the inapplicability of jury trials in juvenile proceedings, but also provides that a juvenile has a right to a jury trial if he is charged with a felony-grade delinquent act that constitutes either a crime of violence or a sex offense.

(Amends Ch.C. Art. 808)