

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 66

BY SENATOR HODGES

CHILDREN. Provides for testimony of medical experts in child custody and in need of care cases. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart I of Part III of Chapter 1 of Code Title V of Code Book I of Title 9 of the
3 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 9:360 through 360.1,
4 relative to child custody; to provide relative to testimony of medical experts in
5 certain circumstances; to provide relative to trial procedure in certain circumstances;
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Subpart I of Part III of Chapter 1 of Code Title V of Code Book I of Title
9 9 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 9:360 through 360.1, is
10 hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **SUBPART I. MEDICAL EXPERT TESTIMONY**

12 **§360. Medical expert testimony; priority for trial**

13 **In any proceeding in which a medical expert has been subpoenaed to**
14 **testify based upon allegations of abuse or neglect of a child, the court shall take**
15 **the testimony of the medical expert in priority to the parties and other**
16 **witnesses, absent extenuating circumstances that would prohibit this procedure.**
17 **The court shall take the testimony of the medical expert for all purposes by**

- 1 **which the medical expert's appearance is responsive to a subpoena.**
- 2 **§360.1. Applicability**
- 3 **The provisions of this Subpart shall apply to child custody proceedings**
- 4 **pursuant to Title V of the Civil Code and child in need of care proceedings**
- 5 **pursuant to Title VI of the Children's Code.**

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)]

DIGEST

SB 66 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Hodges

Proposed law provides that in any proceeding in which a medical expert has been subpoenaed to testify based upon allegations of abuse or neglect of a child, the court shall take the testimony of the medical expert priority to the parties and other witnesses, absent extenuating circumstances that would prohibit this procedure. The court shall take the testimony of the medical expert for all purposes by which the medical expert's appearance is responsive to a subpoena.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law shall apply to child custody proceedings pursuant to present law, Title V of the C.C. and child in need of care proceedings pursuant to present law, Title VI of the Ch.C.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 9:360-360.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Clarifies that the court shall take the testimony experts in priority to parties and witnesses absent extenuating circumstances.
2. Deletes provision regarding a motion for continuance.