
 DIGEST

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SB 396 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

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Present law (Ch.C. Art. 906) requires the office of juvenile justice (OJJ) to physically transport any child in its custody to the committing court for an in-person review hearing not more than six months after the child's commitment, and at least every six months thereafter, unless the in-person hearing is waived by counsel for the child and by the committing court.

Proposed law requires any child committed by a court to the custody of the OJJ to participate in a review hearing via a video conference platform not more than six months after the child's commitment and to be physically transported to the committing court for an in-person hearing every six months thereafter, unless such an in-person hearing is waived by counsel for the child and by the committing court. Further requires the date of the initial review hearing to be set by the court at the time of disposition.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law authorizes the court to order the setting of review hearings more frequently than the in-person hearings every six months and requires additional hearings for a child via a video conferencing platform.

Proposed law requires the staff of the OJJ and contract staff to participate in each review hearing in the same manner as the child who is required to participate in accordance with present law.

Proposed law provides that any child committed by a court to the custody of the OJJ has the right to participate in a private and confidential virtual consultation with his counsel of record prior to any review hearing or other proceeding. Requires the consultation to be conducted through a secure video conferencing platform that ensures end-to-end confidentiality.

Present law provides that a child is deemed "committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice" if he is judicially committed to the legal custody of the OJJ, regardless of where the child is physically held, including detention centers.

Proposed law retains present law and clarifies that "detention centers" are juvenile detention centers.

(Amends Ch.C. Art. 906(B)(1) and (3); Adds Ch.C. Art. 906(B)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Requires an in-person review hearing every six months for a child in the custody of the office of juvenile justice.

Senate Floor Amendments to bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Allows the court to order review hearings more frequently than every six months, where the child shall participate via a video conferencing platform.

3. Grants the right for a child committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice to participate in a private and confidential virtual consultation with his counsel of record prior to any hearings or proceedings in a secure platform.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the reengrossed bill:

1. Restore present law relative to the physical transportation of a child to the committing court for an in-person review hearing not more than six months after the child's commitment.
2. Require the staff of the OJJ and contract staff to participate in each review hearing in the same manner as the child who is required to participate in the review hearing.