

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 541

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

JUVENILE PROCEDURE: Authorizes the use of video conferencing for juveniles for court appearances and contact with family and probation and parole officers

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Children's Code Article 410.1, relative to the use of video conferencing; to  
3 authorize the use of video conferencing for juvenile court appearances and contact  
4 with family and probation and parole officers; to require the establishment of  
5 regulations for the use of video conferencing; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Children's Code Article 410.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 Art. 410.1. Video conferencing

9 A. When available, video conferencing technology may be used for the  
10 purpose of making face-to-face contacts between youth and family members, to  
11 facilitate monthly face-to-face contacts between the youth and a probation and parole  
12 officer, and to conduct court hearings.

13 B.(1) For juvenile detention facilities licensed by the Department of Children  
14 and Family Services pursuant to R.S. 15:1110 et seq., the use of video conferencing  
15 technology shall only be conducted in accordance with the procedures and  
16 limitations established by the Department of Children and Family Services.

17 (2) For facilities operated by the Department of Public Safety and  
18 Corrections, youth services, office of juvenile justice, the use of video conferencing  
19 technology shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures and limitations

1 established by the deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and  
2 Corrections, youth services, office of juvenile justice.

3 C.(1) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, in  
4 conjunction with the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Association, shall establish  
5 regulations to provide for the administration and use of video conferencing  
6 authorized by this Article in juvenile detention facilities licensed by the Department  
7 of Children and Family Services.

8 (2) The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,  
9 youth services, office of juvenile justice, shall establish regulations to provide for the  
10 administration and use of video conferencing authorized by this Article in facilities  
11 operated by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, youth services, office  
12 of juvenile justice.

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#### 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)]

Thompson

HB No. 541

**Abstract:** Authorizes the use of video conferencing for juveniles for court appearances and contact with family and probation and parole officers.

Proposed law authorizes the use of video conferencing technology for the purpose of making face-to-face contacts between youth and family members, to facilitate monthly face-to-face contacts between the youth and a probation and parole officer, and to conduct court hearings.

Proposed law requires the deputy secretary of youth services of DPS&C to establish regulations to facilitate the use of video conferencing in facilities operated by the office of juvenile justice and provides that the use of video conferencing in those facilities shall be conducted in accordance with these regulations.

Proposed law requires the secretary of DCFS to establish regulations to facilitate the use of video conferencing in juvenile detention facilities licensed by DCFS and provides that the use of video conferencing in those facilities shall be conducted in accordance with these regulations.

(Adds Ch. C. Art. 410.1)