

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 396

BY SENATOR CLOUD

JUVENILE JUSTICE. Provides that children in custody of the office of juvenile justice may attend review hearings via secure video conference. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Art. 906(B)(1) and (3) and to enact Children's Code
3 Art. 906(B)(5), relative to the office of juvenile justice; to require review hearings
4 via secure video conference; to reclassify detention centers; to provide for
5 confidential virtual conferencing with the child's counsel of record; and to provide
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Children's Code Art. 906(B)(1) and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 and Children's Code Art. 906(B)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 Art. 906. Required review hearings; commitment; children in custody of the office
11 of juvenile justice

12 * * *

13 B.(1) Any child committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile
14 justice ~~must be physically transported to the committing court for an in-person~~ **shall**
15 **participate in an in-person** review hearing not more than six months after the
16 child's commitment, and **shall be physically transported to the committing court**
17 **for an in-person hearing** every six months thereafter, unless such ~~an in-person~~

1 hearing is waived by counsel for the child and by the committing court. The date of
 2 the initial review hearing shall be set by the court at the time of disposition. **The**
 3 **court may order review hearings set more frequently than the in-person**
 4 **hearings every six months, but for such additional hearings the child shall**
 5 **participate via a video conferencing platform. Office of juvenile justice staff and**
 6 **contract staff shall participate virtually in required review hearings.**

7 * * *

8 (3) For the purposes of this Paragraph, a child is deemed "committed by a
 9 court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice" if he is judicially committed to
 10 the legal custody of the office of juvenile justice, regardless of where the child is
 11 physically held, including but not limited to state-run secure facilities, state-run
 12 nonsecure facilities, private facilities with which the office of juvenile justice
 13 contracts, and **juvenile** detention centers.

14 * * *

15 **(5) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any child**
 16 **committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice shall have**
 17 **the right to participate in a private and confidential virtual consultation with**
 18 **his counsel of record prior to any review hearing or other proceeding. The**
 19 **consultation shall be conducted through a secure video conferencing platform**
 20 **that ensures end-to-end confidentiality.**

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 396 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Cloud

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 906) requires the OJJ to physically transport any child in its custody to the committing court for an in-person review hearing not more than 6 months after the child's commitment, and at least every 6 months thereafter, unless the in-person hearing is waived by counsel for the child and by the committing court.

Proposed law provides that any child committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice shall participate in a review hearing via a video conference platform not more than six months after the child's commitment, and shall 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 provides that the date of the initial review hearing shall be set by the court at the time of disposition.

Proposed law provides that the court may order review hearings set more frequently than the in-person hearings every six months, but for additional hearings the child shall participate via a video conferencing platform.

Proposed law provides that office of juvenile justice staff and contract staff shall participate virtually in required review hearings.

Proposed law provides that any child committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice shall have the right to participate in a private and confidential virtual consultation with his counsel of record prior to any review hearing or other proceeding. The consultation shall 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.