

HB 1078 -- Juveniles

Sponsor: Stevenson

Under current law, for purposes of Chapter 211, RSMo, Juvenile Courts, "adult" is defined as a person 17 years of age or older; and "child" is defined as a person under 17 years of age. This bill changes the age to 18 in both definitions.

The bill permits parents and guardians of students to opt into a higher compulsory school age of 18.

The bill allows juvenile officers to initiate a criminal records check including full orders of protection and outstanding warrants and a check of the child abuse and neglect registry for any individual over the age of 17 residing in a home in which a child is placed on an emergency basis.

The bill also creates the crime of unlawful interference with visitation. A person commits the crime if he or she violates the provisions of a court order relating to child custody by detaining a child with the intent to deprive another person of his or her right to visitation. Unlawful interference with visitation is an infraction. A second or subsequent offense is a class C misdemeanor. The bill also specifies affirmative defenses for the crime of unlawful interference with visitation.