



2025-2026 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 377: 2026 Court Changes, Sec. 15: Make Certain Changes Related to Juvenile Court Records

Analysis of: House Bill 377 (Ratified) , Sec. 15

Date: August 17, 2026

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Section 15 of House Bill 377 would have done the following:

- Clarified that in an abuse, neglect, or dependency action:
 - A presiding district court judge and designated court staff can inspect confidential juvenile court records.
 - The recording of a hearing in the action can only be copied by order of the court.
 - A person not authorized to examine the juvenile's court record without a court order could file a written motion setting out why the information is needed. A district court judge would have been authorized to issue an order to disclose the information upon finding that the order is appropriate under the circumstances and in the best interest of the juvenile or necessary for the protection of the public.
- Clarified that in a proceeding for emancipation:
 - Court records in the action are confidential, except the certificate of emancipation.
 - A party, required participants, or their attorneys can access written records in the file without a court order.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

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