

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Smith and others

**Subject:** Juvenile delinquency hearings; public records

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This bill modifies the standard for opening juvenile delinquency hearings to the public and making related records open to public inspection.

Current law provides that juvenile hearings are public if the child is 16 or 17 years old and the alleged offense is a felony. The bill provides that this standard would continue to apply to certification and extended jurisdiction juvenile (EJJ) proceedings. However, for *delinquency* proceedings, the standard would change—the court must also determine that, due to the violent or serious nature of the offense, the hearing should be open to the public because the benefits to public safety outweigh the potential consequences to the child due to the resulting public record.

Under a separate statute (§ 260B.171, subd. 4), only records arising from public hearings are available for public inspection; all other juvenile court records are available only by court order. Accordingly, the bill would keep related juvenile *delinquency* records closed to the public unless the new standard for a public hearing is met.