

Subject Children in need of protection or services; raising age of delinquency

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Summary

Under section 260C.007, subdivision 6, a “child in need of protection or services” includes a child who has committed a delinquent act or a juvenile petty offense before becoming ten years old. Thus, currently, a child aged ten or over who commits a delinquent act or a juvenile petty offense is considered a delinquent child and enters the juvenile justice system.

This bill, effective August 1, 2026, would raise the age of delinquency so that a child aged 13 or older who commits a delinquent act or a juvenile petty offense would be considered a delinquent child, but a child under age 13 would be considered a child in need of protection or services. The bill also makes clarifying changes in delinquency and juvenile petty offense statutes to explicitly exclude children under age 13, and directs the commissioners of human services; children, youth, and families; corrections; and public safety to confer to ensure child protection system capacity and develop necessary policies related to raising the age of delinquency.