HOUSE BILL NO. 5693

April 25, 2024, Introduced by Reps. Young, Grant, Neeley, Hope, O'Neal, Dievendorf, Brenda Carter, Rheingans, Wilson, MacDonell, Brabec, Tsernoglou, Rogers, Hood, Price, Andrews, McKinney and Scott and referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 288, entitled "Probate code of 1939,"

by amending section 17 of chapter XIIA (MCL 712A.17), as amended by 1998 PA 474.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

CHAPTER XIIA

Sec. 17. (1) The court may conduct a hearing other than a

criminal hearing in an informal manner. The court shall require

stenographic notes or another transcript to be taken of the

hearing. The court shall adjourn a hearing or grant a continuance

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- 1 regarding a case under section 2(b) of this chapter only for good
- 2 cause with factual findings on the record and not solely upon on
- 3 the stipulation of counsel or for the convenience of a party. In
- 4 addition to a factual finding of good cause, the court shall not
- 5 adjourn the hearing or grant a continuance unless 1 of the
- 6 following is also true:
- 7 (a) The motion for the adjournment or continuance is made in
- 8 writing not less than 14 days before the hearing.
- 9 (b) The court grants the adjournment or continuance upon on
- 10 its own motion after taking into consideration the child's best
- 11 interests. An adjournment or continuance granted under this
- 12 subdivision shall must not last more than 28 days unless the court
- 13 states on the record the specific reasons why a longer adjournment
- 14 or continuance is necessary.
- 15 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in a
- 16 hearing other than a criminal trial under this chapter, a person
- 17 interested in the hearing may demand a jury of 6 individuals, or
- 18 the court, on its own motion, may order a jury of 6 individuals to
- 19 try the case. In a proceeding under section 2(h) of this chapter, a
- 20 jury shall must not be demanded or ordered on a supplemental
- 21 petition alleging a violation of a personal protection order. In a
- 22 criminal trial, a jury may be demanded as provided by law. The jury
- 23 shall be summoned and impaneled in accordance with chapter 13 of
- 24 the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.1300 to
- 25 600.1376, 600.1372, and, in the case of a criminal trial, as
- 26 provided in chapter VIII of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA
- 27 175, MCL 768.1 to 768.36.768.37.
- 28 (3) A parent, guardian, or other custodian of a juvenile held
- 29 under this chapter has the right to give bond or other security for

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1 the appearance of the juvenile at the hearing of the case.

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- 2 (4) The prosecuting attorney shall appear for the people when 3 requested by the court, and in a proceeding under section 2(a)(1) 4 of this chapter, the prosecuting attorney shall appear if the 5 proceeding requires a hearing and the taking of testimony.
 - (5) In a proceeding under section 2(b) of this chapter, upon request of the family independence agency department or an agent of the family independence agency department under contract with the family independence agency, department, the prosecuting attorney shall serve as a legal consultant to the family independence agency department or its agent at all stages of the proceeding. If in a proceeding under section 2(b) of this chapter the prosecuting attorney does not appear on behalf of the family independence agency department or its agent, the family independence agency department may contract with an attorney of its choice for legal representation.
- 17 (6) A member of a local foster care review board established 18 under 1984 PA 422, MCL 722.131 to 722.139a, shall must be admitted 19 to a hearing under subsection (1).
 - (7) Upon motion of a party or a victim, the court may close the hearing of a case brought under this chapter to members of the general public during the testimony of a juvenile witness or the victim if the court finds that closing the hearing is necessary to protect the welfare of the juvenile witness or the victim. In determining whether closing the hearing is necessary to protect the welfare of the juvenile witness or the victim, the court shall consider **all of** the following:
- 28 (a) The age of the juvenile witness or the victim.
- 29 (b) The nature of the proceeding.

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- (c) The desire of the juvenile witness, of the witness's
 family or guardian, or of the victim to have the testimony taken in
 a room closed to the public.
- 4 (8) As used in subsection (7), "juvenile witness" does not
 5 include a juvenile against whom a proceeding is brought under
 6 section 2(a)(1) of this chapter.
- 7 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 1 year 8 after the date it is enacted into law.
- 9 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect 10 unless Senate Bill No. ____ or House Bill No. 5689 (request no.
- 11 01578'23) of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into law.