

April 18, 2007

H 1661. JUVENILE JURISDICTION/EMANCIPATION. Filed 4/18/07. *TO REVISE THE JUVENILE CODE TO ALLOW THE COURT TO RETAIN JURISDICTION OVER JUVENILES WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS AND TO REQUIRE THE COURT TO CONSIDER WHETHER A JUVENILE HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH A RESPONSIBLE ADULT BEFORE THE COURT ENTERS A DECREE OF EMANCIPATION.*

Enacts new GS 7B-201(a1) regarding court jurisdiction over a juvenile with a petition for special immigrant juvenile status that has been filed with the appropriate federal authority but not granted by the time the juvenile turns 18 or is otherwise emancipated. Provides that the court may retain its jurisdiction, with the juvenile's consent, until the juvenile reaches 21 years of age or the federal authorities make a decision on the petition and the application, whichever comes first. Amends GS 7B-3504 to add to the list of considerations that the court must review in determining the best interests of a juvenile petitioner for emancipation the quality of the juvenile petitioner's relationship with at least one responsible adult. Effective October 1, 2007.

Intro. by Luebke.

GS 7B