

HB 1790 -- Admissibility of Statements of Children

Sponsor: Torpey

Currently, a hearsay statement of a child under 14 years of age relating to an offense under Chapter 565, 566, 568, or 573, RSMo, performed with or on a child by another is admissible as substantive evidence if the court finds that the statement provides sufficient indicia of reliability and the child testifies at the proceedings, is unavailable as a witness, or is otherwise physically available but the court finds that significant emotional or psychological trauma would result from testifying in the presence of the defendant. This bill removes the requirement that the offense be performed with or on a child by another.