

Bill No.: HB0159 **Effective:** 7/1/2017
LSO No.: 17LSO-0226
Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0109
Chapter No.: 180
Prime Sponsor: Zwonitzer
Catch Title: Homeless minors.
Subject: Homeless minors.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Under existing law, minors who are at least seventeen (17) years of age and who have been declared emancipated may be recognized as an adult for purposes of entering into binding contracts.
- This act authorizes an unemancipated minor to enter into certain legally binding contracts, as well as to obtain birth certificates from the Department of Health, provided that the minor:
 - Is at least sixteen (16) years of age;
 - Willingly living separate and apart from his parents who consent to or acquiesce in the separate living arrangement;
 - Is homeless;
 - Is managing his own affairs; and
 - Submits a notarized affidavit that is signed and sworn to by the minor and includes certain information and that is witnessed and acknowledged by two (2) or more adults as specified.
- The act specifies that adults witnessing an affidavit shall not assume any legal responsibility or liability under a contract entered into by a minor.
- The act specifies that contracts are binding if accepted in good faith reliance on affidavits submitted by a minor.
- Existing law requires any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe or suspect child abuse or neglect to report to the child protection agency or local law enforcement agency. This act specifies that the fact a minor is homeless is not sufficient basis for reporting abuse or neglect.

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