
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5735

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Darneille, Nguyen, Hasegawa, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appropriate age for juvenile court
2 adjudication; and amending RCW 9A.04.050.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9A.04.050 and 2011 c 336 s 347 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Children under the age of eight years are incapable of committing
7 crime. Children of eight and under twelve years of age are incapable
8 of committing any crime which is not a serious violent offense under
9 RCW 9.94A.030, and are presumed to be incapable of committing a crime
10 which is a serious violent offense, but this presumption may be
11 removed by proof that they have sufficient capacity to understand the
12 act or neglect, and to know that it was wrong. Whenever in legal
13 proceedings it becomes necessary to determine the age of a child, he
14 or she may be produced for inspection, to enable the court or jury to
15 determine the age thereby; and the court may also direct his or her
16 examination by one or more physicians, whose opinion shall be
17 competent evidence upon the question of his or her age.

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