

5379

Sponsor(s): Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Carlson, Regala, Parlette, McAuliffe and Winsley

Brief Description: Revising rules for public access to dependency hearings.

SB 5379.E - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Provides that either parent, or the child's attorney or guardian ad litem, may move to close a hearing at any time. If the judge finds that it is in the best interests of the child the court shall exclude the public.

Provides that, if the public is excluded from the hearing, the following people may attend the closed hearing unless the judge finds it is not in the best interests of the child: (1) The child's relatives;

(2) The child's foster parents if the child resides in foster care; and

(3) Any person requested by the parent.

Declares that any video recording of the proceedings may be released pursuant to RCW 13.50.100, however, the video recording may not be televised, broadcast, or further disseminated to the public.