

By: Wu

H.B. No. 679

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to prohibiting the use of a mechanical or physical
3 restraint on a child during a judicial proceeding in the juvenile
4 court.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 54, Family Code, is amended by adding
7 Section 54.12 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.12. USE OF RESTRAINTS. (a) A mechanical or
9 physical restraint may not be used on a child during a judicial
10 proceeding and any restraint must be removed before the child's
11 appearance before the court unless the court finds that:

22 (b) The court shall provide the child's attorney an
23 opportunity to be heard before the court may order the use of a
24 mechanical or physical restraint. If the use of a restraint is

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1 ordered, the court shall make findings of fact in support of the
2 order.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.