

# **One Hundred Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2026**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB995**

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**Chairperson: Senator Carolyn Bosn**

**Committee: Judiciary**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The intent of this bill is to strengthen and clarify juveniles' access to counsel in juvenile court proceedings to ensure due process and meaningful participation at every critical stage of a case. The bill requires the appointment of counsel upon the filing of a qualifying juvenile court petition and establishes clearer standards for advising juveniles and families of this right. It enhances protections around waiver of counsel by requiring affirmative, informed, and documented waivers and by limiting when waiver is permitted. The bill also ensures juveniles receive developmentally appropriate written materials explaining their rights and have the opportunity to consult with counsel before any waiver.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Victor Rountree**