2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 371

## BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANEY

## CHILDREN/ABUSE: Provides relative to reporting of child abuse and neglect

1	AN ACT		
2	To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 610(A), relative to reports of child abuse and		
3	neglect; to provide for reporting procedure for permitted and mandatory reporters;		
4	and to provide for related matters.		
5	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:		
6	Section 1. Children's Code Article 610(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read		
7	as follows:		
8	Art. 610. Reporting procedure; report to the legislature		
9	A.(1) Reports of child abuse or neglect or that such was a contributing factor		
10	in a child's death, where the abuser is believed to be a parent or caretaker, a person		
11	who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or		
12	caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a		
13	spouse whether married or not, shall be made immediately to the department.A		
14	permitted reporter shall make a report through the designated state child protection		
15	reporting hotline telephone number, in person at any child welfare office, or		
16	immediately by phone to any state child welfare office. A mandatory reporter shall		
17	make a report through the designated state child protection reporting hotline		
18	telephone number, via the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services		
19	Mandated Reporter Portal, in person at any state child welfare office, or		
20	immediately by phone to any state child welfare office. Reports in which the abuse		

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	or neglect is believed to be perpetrated by someone other than a caretaker, a person
2	who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or
3	caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a
4	spouse whether married or not, and the caretaker is not believed to have any
5	responsibility for the abuse or neglect shall be made immediately to a local or state
6	law enforcement agency. Dual reporting to both the department through the
7	designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number and the local or
8	state law enforcement agency is permitted.
9	(2) A report made to the department by facsimile does not relieve the
10	reporter of his duty to report in accordance with Subsections A(1) or D.
11	* * *

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 371 Original	2018 Regular Session	Chaney
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Abstract: Revises reporting procedure of child abuse and neglect in the La. Children's Code for permitted and mandatory reporters.

<u>Present law</u> requires that permitted reporters report child abuse or neglect through the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) reporting hotline.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds that permitted reporters shall report in person at any child welfare office or immediately by phone to any state child welfare office.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds that mandatory reporters shall make a report through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number, via the DCFS Services Mandated Reporter Portal, in person at any state child welfare office, or immediately by phone to any state child welfare office.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds child abuse or neglect reports by fax do not relieve reporters from their duty to report by hotline, in person, or by phone.

(Amends Ch. C. Art. 610(A))