The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

DIGEST

SB 145 Original | 2024 Regular Session | Barrow

Present law creates a state child ombudsman appointed by the legislative auditor and provides for the powers and duties of the ombudsman.

Proposed law defines terms used included in the ombudsman's duties and grants the ombudsman authority to access certain documents and records to perform those duties.

Proposed law prohibits the ombudsman from being compelled to be a witness or be deposed in any case where the ombudsman is not personally a defendant.

Present law provides for confidentiality of certain documents maintained by the Department of Education, Louisiana's Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation (LA FIRST), public elementary and secondary schools and local public school systems, the Department of Children and Family Services, juvenile courts, and the office of juvenile justice.

Proposed law requires that those documents be provided to the ombudsman upon request.

Present law exempts certain documents in the custody or control of the legislative auditor and the internal auditor of a municipality from public records disclosure.

Proposed law adds an exemption for documents in the custody or control of the ombudsman.

Present law provides for Department of Children and Family Services procedures relative to reported alleged abuse or neglect.

Proposed law adds procedures for cases of inconclusive determination.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 24:525(C)(2), (5)-(8), and (11), R.S. 44:4(6), and Ch.C. Art. 412(N), 616.1.1(B), and 616.1.1(C)(intro para); adds R.S. 17:407.29(J), 3138.12(I), 3914(O), R.S. 24:525(F) and (G), R.S. 46:56(N), and Ch.C. Art. 616.1.1(D))