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## DIGEST

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HB 469 Original

2024 Regular Session

Moore

**Abstract:** Establishes 233 as a statewide sexual abuse helpline.

Present law provides procedures for victims of sexual abuse or a sexually oriented criminal offense. Proposed law adds boosting awareness and proper utilization of the sexual abuse helpline established in proposed law to the existing requirements in present law.

Proposed law provides definitions for "233", "sexual abuse helpline", and "sexual abuse helpline staff".

Proposed law declares that promoting accessibility to healthcare services for sexual abuse victims is vital to the protection of public health and the improvement of sexual abuse victims within the state.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop and designate 233 as the 3-digit telephone code exclusively for reporting sexual abuse in the state.

Proposed law further requires DCFS to be responsible for the efficacy and implementation of the sexual abuse helpline, which includes but is not limited to the following:

- (1) Maintaining a log of reported sexual abuse claims made by persons who call the sexual abuse helpline.
- (2) Employing counseling professionals who can respond to calls and provide contact information and referrals for sexual abuse treatment.
- (3) Marketing and advertising of the sexual abuse helpline.
- (4) Reporting claims of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement personnel.

(Amends R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 40:1216.1(E)(2)(f) and (3)(k) and (H)(6) and 1216.2)