

---

The original instrument was prepared by Amanda Trapp. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Matt Deville.

---

DIGEST

SB 145 Engrossed

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. Arts. 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))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Exempt the name and identifying information of the reporter of child abuse and certain financial information from the records available to the child ombudsman.
2. Provide that an inconclusive report regarding a determination of abuse or neglect will be evaluated internally.