

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 216 (HB 335)

2024 Regular Session

Carver

Relative to mandatory reporting of child abuse or neglect, new law modifies the definition of "teaching or child care provider" in existing law to include school resource officers and otherwise retains existing law.

New law retains existing law provision relative to "police officers or law enforcement officials". New law further requires any police officer or law enforcement official who works as a school resource officer to be considered a mandatory reporter.

New law does not require a school resource officer to receive information from another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into the report.

New law revises existing law provisions to require certain reporters to report that suspected child abuse was a contributing factor to the death of the child to the Dept. of Family and Children Services (DCFS) or local or state law enforcement.

New law revises prior law provisions that stipulate measures for mandatory reporters and permitted reporters to report to DCFS.

New law requires a mandatory reporter to make a report of suspected abuse or neglect requiring immediate assistance via the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number. New law further requires a permitted reporter to make a report through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number or in person at any child welfare office.

New law provides that if a mandatory reporter is prohibited from making an immediate report because of employment policies, he shall be permitted to file a complaint with law enforcement.

New law further provides for penalties against an employer who discriminates or retaliates against an employee who is a mandatory reporter.

New law requires DCFS to determine whether a parent or caretaker who is under investigation for allegedly committing a crime of abuse or neglect is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of a member on active duty.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 23, 2024).

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 603(17)(d) and (e) and 610(A))