

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 459

BY SENATOR BARROW

CHILDREN/FAMILY SERVICES DEPT. Provides relative to the Department of Children and Family Services. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:51(1), (3), (4)(a), and (15), relative to the Department of
3 Children and Family Services; to provide for duties of the department; to establish
4 minimum standards for certain positions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:51(1), (3), (4)(a), and (15) are hereby amended and reenacted to
7 read as follows:

8 §51. Duties of the department

9 The Department of Children and Family Services, through its secretary, shall
10 administer the public assistance and welfare laws of the state as follows:

11 (1) Make and promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary ~~or~~
12 ~~desirable~~ for carrying out the provisions of this Chapter, which rules and regulations
13 are binding upon the parishes or other local units and their agents and upon such
14 private agencies and their agents as are subject to the supervision of the department.

15 * * *

16 (3) Provide services to parish governments including the organization and
17 supervision of parish offices for the effective administration of **child** welfare

1 ~~functions, and carry on such research and compile such information as it shall~~
2 ~~consider necessary, having in mind the purposes of this Chapter and its~~
3 ~~administration throughout the state.~~

4 (4) Establish adequate standards for personnel employed in the state,
5 regional, or parish offices and make necessary rules and regulations to maintain such
6 standards as follows:

7 (a) Fix minimum standards of service and personnel based upon education,
8 training, previous experience, and general efficiency which must be attained by
9 persons appointed to the position to be filled in the state, regional, and parish offices.

10 **Any employee that is responsible for conducting investigations into allegations**
11 **of child abuse or neglect shall, at a minimum, possess a baccalaureate degree**
12 **from an accredited college or university.**

13 * * *

14 (15) Establish child protection centers wherever they are practical throughout
15 the state; provide the necessary staff; coordinate the funding of ~~said~~ **the** centers from
16 federal, state, parish, municipal, or private funds as they become available;
17 administer child protection centers for the care, treatment, and protection of abused
18 **and neglected** children, and establish rules and regulations to further the ~~said~~
19 protection centers. When such centers are established, they shall provide protection
20 and emergency care, investigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of children and
21 parents, education programs, record keeping, research, and consultation and shall
22 develop programs for volunteer participation and seek long-range solutions for child
23 abuse.

24 * * *

25 Section 2. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to change the introductory
26 paragraph of R.S. 46:51 as amended by Act 477 of the 2025 Regular Session.

