
DIGEST

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HB 371 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Chaney

Abstract: Provides for additional means by which permitted and mandatory reporters may report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Present law provides that permitted reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect shall report such cases by phone through the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) designated child protection reporting hotline. Proposed law adds reporting in person at any DCFS child welfare office as a means for permitted reporters to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

Proposed law provides that mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect shall report such cases through the DCFS designated child protection reporting hotline, via the DCFS Services Mandated Reporter Portal, or in person at any child welfare office.

Proposed law stipulates that making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect to DCFS by facsimile does not relieve the reporter of his duty to report in accordance with present law and proposed law.

Present law provides that if a mandatory reporter's initial report of suspected child abuse or neglect was in oral form, then it shall be followed by a written report made within five days to the local child protection unit of DCFS. Proposed law revises present law to provide that if a mandatory reporter's initial report was in oral form, then it shall be followed by a written report made within five days via the DCFS Mandated Reporter Portal or by mail to the DCFS centralized intake unit.

(Amends Ch. C. Art. 610(A) and (D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Delete proposed law authorizing mandatory reporters and permitted reporters of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to report such cases by phone to any state child welfare office of the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
2. Revise present law to delete a requirement that a mandatory reporter who reports in oral form initially shall submit a written report within five days to the local child protection unit of DCFS, and to require instead that the mandatory reporter submit the written report

via the DCFS Mandated Reporter Portal or by mail to the DCFS centralized intake unit.

3. Make technical changes.