

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 520****2018 Regular Session****Johnson**

CHILDRENS CODE: Provides relative to disclosure of information in the state central registry of reports of child abuse and neglect

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Makes proposed law effective upon adoption and publication of rules and regulations by the La. Department of Children and Family Services.

Present law requires records of child abuse or neglect to be confidential, but permits the La. Dept. of Children and Family Services to promulgate rules regarding the release of such information in the central registry.

Proposed law removes the language requiring the La. Dept. of Children and Family Services to promulgate rules regarding the release of child abuse or neglect reports in the central registry.

Proposed law incorporates changes to present law proposed by Act No. 348 of the 2017 R.S. regarding the confidentiality of the identity of an alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect. Proposed law adds that the La. Dept. of Children and Family Services is required to provide otherwise confidential information to the court or district attorney's office when necessary for the court to protect a child from abuse or neglect.

Proposed law adds that the La. Dept of Children and Family Services is required to provide otherwise confidential informational involving open or completed investigations of child abuse or neglect to other states' child welfare agencies upon written request when requests are made pursuant to ongoing investigations.

Proposed law provides that proposed law become effective upon adoption and publication of rules and regulations by the La. Department of Children and Family Services.

(Amends Ch.C. Art. 616(B); Repeals Ch.C. Art. 616(B) as amended and reenacted by Act No. 348 of the 2017 R.S.)