AN ACT

To amend and reenact Children's Code Art. 610(A)(1) and to enact Children's Code Art. 610(E)(4) and R.S. 46:51(16), relative to mandatory reporting of child abuse; to provide for reporting of child sex trafficking; to provide for the duties of the department including the provision of care coordination and advocacy services; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Children's Code Art. 610(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and Children's Code Art. 610(E)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

A.(1) Reports of child abuse or neglect or that such was a contributing factor in a child's death, where the abuser is believed to be a parent or caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, shall be made immediately to the department. A permitted reporter shall make a report through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number or in person at any child welfare office. A mandatory reporter shall make a report through the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number, via the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services Mandated Reporter Portal online, or in person at any child welfare office.
office. Reports in which the abuse or neglect is believed to be perpetrated by
someone other than a caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or
engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same
residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, and the
caretaker is not believed to have any responsibility for the abuse or neglect shall be
made immediately to a local or state law enforcement agency. Dual reporting to both
the department and the local or state law enforcement agency is permitted. If a
report involves alleged sex trafficking, all mandatory reporters shall report to
the department regardless of whether there is alleged parental or caretaker
culpability.

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E.

(4) The department shall communicate as soon as possible all reports
involving alleged child victims of sex trafficking to the Louisiana State Police for
referral to the appropriate local law enforcement agency for investigation or
other action as appropriate.

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Section 2. R.S. 46:51(16) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§51. Duties of the department

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

* * *

(16) Make care coordination and advocacy services available for child
victims of child sex trafficking as follows:

(a) Care coordination services may include emergency and ongoing
multidisciplinary coordination and service planning with key agencies to
address medical, psychological, safety, housing, and other emergency and long-
term needs of the child and the investigative needs of law enforcement.

(b) Based on the needs of the child and the child's family, advocacy
services may include:
(i) Face-to-face visits to include emotional support.

(ii) Development, implementation, and updates to safety plans.

(iii) Communication and advocacy on the child’s behalf with care coordinators.

(iv) Assistance with referrals and implementation of services.

(v) Twenty-four hour on-call crisis assistance to respond to the needs of the child.

(vi) Assistance with transportation and other physical needs.

(vii) Support work with the family to develop safety procedures based on the particular situation and the child’s needs.

(viii) Education on how to monitor and address the child’s internet access, messaging, and telephone contacts.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2023; if vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval by the legislature or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________