
DIGEST

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HB 335 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Carver

Abstract: Provides relative to mandatory reporters of child abuse.

Proposed law modifies the definition of "teaching or child care provider" in present law to include school resource officers and otherwise retains present law.

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

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

Proposed law revises present law provisions relative to child abuse reporting to require certain reporters to report suspected child abuse if it 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.

Proposed law stipulates certain measures for mandatory reporters and permitted reporters to report to the department.

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

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Include school resource officers as "teaching or child care providers".
2. Require reporters to report suspected child abuse if it was a contributing factor to the death of the child to DCFS or local or state law enforcement.

3. Stipulate certain measures for mandatory reporters and permitted reporters to report to the department.
4. Provide 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.
5. Provide for penalties against an employer who discriminates or retaliates against mandatory reporters.
6. Require any police officer or law enforcement official who works as a school resource officer to be considered a mandatory reporter.
7. Do not require a school resource officer to receive information from another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into the report.
8. Make technical corrections.