

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 451

2025 Regular Session

Bacala

CHILDREN/ABUSE: Provides relative to mandatory reporters of child abuse

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes school resource officer from the list of mandatory reports of child abuse or neglect.
2. Adds that a school resource officer is required to report child abuse or neglect in certain circumstances to either the law enforcement agency employing the resource officer or the Dept. of Children and Family Services, in accordance with present law.
3. Provides that the school resource officer's employer shall assign the investigation alleged child abuse or neglect to the most appropriate law enforcement officer, who may be the school resource officer.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides a list of defined mandatory reporters of child abuse. That list includes police officers and law enforcement officials. Any police officer or law enforcement official who works as a school resource officer is considered a mandatory reporter.

Present law also provides that a school resource officer cannot receive information from another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into a report.

Proposed law repeals present law providing that a resource officer may receive a report of child abuse or neglect, but the officer is required to report any received report to the law enforcement entity employing the resource provider. Proposed law further provides that the law enforcement entity that receives a report of suspected child abuse or neglect may assign an appropriate officer, including the school resource officer that initially reported the alleged child abuse or neglect, to conduct an investigation.

Present law defines "teaching or child care provider".

Proposed law removes school resource officers from the definition of "teaching or child care provider".

Present law provides for the instances when a mandatory reporter is required to report child abuse or neglect or that child abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the school resource officer to report suspected child abuse or neglect of a student to the officer's employing law enforcement agency or the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Proposed law further requires the school resource officer's employer to assign investigation of the matter to the most appropriate law enforcement officer, who may be the school resource officer.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 603(17)(d) and (e) and 610(A)(3) and (4); adds Ch.C. Art. 610(A)(5))