

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to Re-Reengrossed Senate Bill No. 237 by Senator Barrow

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 4, after "609(A)(3)" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 5 in its
3 entirety and insert "610(A)(4)(a) and (D)"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 2

5 On page 1, delete line 8 in its entirety and insert "52.3, and R.S. 49:191(3)(b), and Children's
6 Code Arts. 512(E), 524(B)(13), and 603(17)(p), (33), and (34), and to repeal"

7 AMENDMENT NO. 3

8 On page 2, delete lines 22 and 23 in their entirety and insert the following:

9 **"(13) Notify the speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives,**
10 **the president pro tempore of the Senate, and the chairs of the House and Senate**
11 **committees on health and welfare of the death of any child whose death or**
12 **injury is the subject of an alleged"**

13 AMENDMENT NO. 4

14 On page 5, line 16, after "use" and before "documents" insert "**physical**"

15 AMENDMENT NO. 5

16 On page 6, delete lines 18 and 19 and insert the following:

17 **"(7) "Near fatality" means an act that, as certified by a physician, places the**
18 **child in serious or critical condition."**

19 AMENDMENT NO. 6

20 On page 6, line 25, delete "**each region of**"

21 AMENDMENT NO. 7

22 On page 6, line 26, change "**Each**" to "**The**"

23 AMENDMENT NO. 8

24 On page 7, line 1, delete "**the chief medical director as the**" and insert "**an**"

25 AMENDMENT NO. 9

26 On page 7, line 4, after "**R.S. 24:525 and**" delete "**for**"

27 AMENDMENT NO. 10

28 On page 7, delete line 13 in its entirety and insert the following:

29 **"(1) The department shall provide all of the following preliminary**
30 **information after all administrative appeals have been exhausted:"**

1 AMENDMENT NO. 11

2 On page 7, line 25, delete "A detailed synopsis" and insert in lieu thereof "Information
3 describing"

4 AMENDMENT NO. 12

5 On page 8, between lines 28 and 29, insert the following:

6 "(9) A quality-improvement or continuous-improvement employee of the
7 department with training in safety science or human-factors analysis appointed
8 by the secretary of the department."

9 AMENDMENT NO. 13

10 On page 13, line 28, after "609(A)(3),"delete the remainder of the line and delete line 29 in
11 its entirety

12 AMENDMENT NO. 14

13 On page 14, line 1, delete "610(A)(3) and (4)(a)," and insert "610(A)(4)(a)"

14 AMENDMENT NO. 15

15 On page 14, line 3, delete "603(17)(p)" insert "603(17)(p), (33), and (34)"

16 AMENDMENT NO. 16

17 On page 14, line 15, after "sexual" delete the remainder of the line and insert "abuse or
18 severe physical"

19 AMENDMENT NO. 17

20 On page 14, line 16, after "interview" and before the period "." insert "in accordance with
21 interagency protocols"

22 AMENDMENT NO. 18

23 On page 15, after line 29, add the following:

24 "(33) "Near fatality" means an act that, as certified by a physician,
25 places the child in serious or critical condition.

26 (34) "Severe neglect" means a report of failure to thrive, severe
27 malnourishment, or a consistent, willful, or reckless failure to follow a
28 recommended medical plan, leading to substantial harm or imminent risk of
29 harm to the child."

30 AMENDMENT NO. 19

31 On page 16, delete lines 28 and 29 and on page 17, delete lines 1 through 17 and insert the
32 following:

33 "A. A reporter shall immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect or that child
34 abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death in the following ways:

35 * * *

36 AMENDMENT NO. 20

37 On page 19, delete lines 25 and 26 and insert the following:

1 "and to local or state law enforcement, regardless of the alleged perpetrator."

2 AMENDMENT NO. 21

3 On page 19, delete line 29 in its entirety

4 AMENDMENT NO. 22

5 On page 20, delete lines 1 and 2 in their entirety and insert the following:

6 "(3) Law enforcement shall begin an investigation"

7 AMENDMENT NO. 23

8 On page 20, delete line 7 in its entirety and insert "be referred to the Department of Children
9 and Family Services. The"

10 AMENDMENT NO. 24

11 On page 20, delete lines 14 and 15 and insert the following:

12 "(b) "Sexual abuse" means ~~the perpetration or attempted perpetration of R.S. 14:41,~~
13 ~~42, 42.1, 43, 43.1, 43.2, 43.3, 43.4, 80, 81, 81.1, 81.2, 86, 89, or 89.1~~ the involvement of the
14 child in any sexual act as defined in Children's Code Article 603(2)(c)."

15 AMENDMENT NO. 25

16 On page 21, line 24 change "~~shall~~" to "may"

17 AMENDMENT NO. 26

18 On page 22, delete line 1 and insert the following:

19 "~~practitioner of physical abuse~~ a near fatality, severe neglect, or sexual abuse of a child
20 ~~who is not in custody of the state,~~"

21 AMENDMENT NO. 27

22 On page 22, line 4, after "investigation to" and before "a" insert "the department's child
23 welfare medical team or"

24 AMENDMENT NO. 28

25 On page 22, delete lines 6 and 7 and insert the following:

26 "~~Any resulting report shall be provided to the department and to the child's parent or~~
27 ~~caretaker and~~ The findings and recommendations of the clinical review shall be utilized
28 in the department's ongoing assessment of risk and to"

29 AMENDMENT NO. 29

30 On page 22, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

31 "(6) At the request and expense of the child's parent or caregiver, the
32 department shall provide copies of all medical information pertaining to the child's
33 condition or treatment obtained during the investigation to a board-certified child
34 abuse pediatrician for an independent external review. Any resulting external report
35 shall be provided to the department and to the child's parent or caregiver and shall be

1 utilized in the same manner as any review conducted pursuant to Subparagraph (5) of
2 this Paragraph."

3 AMENDMENT NO. 30

4 On page 22, delete line 18 and insert the following:

5 "C. All interviews ~~of the child or his parents~~ conducted in the course of a child"

6 AMENDMENT NO. 31

7 On page 1, line 8, after "52.3," and before "and" insert " R.S. 49:191(3)(b),"

8 AMENDMENT NO. 32

9 On page 23, between lines 17 and 18 , insert the following:

10 "Section 5. Pursuant to R.S. 49:193, the Department of Children and Family
11 Services and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law shall be re-created
12 effective June 30, 2026, and all statutory authority therefor is continued in accordance with
13 the provisions of Part XII of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

14 Section 6. All statutory authority for the existence of the Department of Children and
15 Family Services and the statutory entities made a part of the department as re-created by
16 Section 1 of this Act shall cease as of July 1, 2031, pursuant to R.S. 49:191. However, the
17 Department of Children and Family Services may be re-created prior to such date in
18 accordance with the provisions of Part XII of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised
19 Statutes of 1950.

20 Section 7. The provisions of R.S. 49:193 are hereby superseded to the extent that
21 those provisions are in conflict with the provisions of this Act.

22 Section 8. R.S. 49:191(3)(b) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

23 §191. Termination of legislative authority for existence of statutory entities; phase-
24 out period for statutory entities; table of dates

25 Notwithstanding any termination dates set by any previous Act of the
26 legislature, the statutory entities set forth in this Section shall begin to terminate their
27 operations on July first of each of the following years, and all legislative authority
28 for the existence of any statutory entity, as defined in R.S. 49:190, shall cease as of
29 July first of the following year, which shall be the termination date:

30 * * *
31 (3) July 1, 2030: * * *

32 * * *
33 (b) The Department of Children and Family Services and all statutory
34 entities made a part of the department by law.
35 * * *

36 AMENDMENT NO. 33

37 On page 23, delete line 18 in its entirety and insert the following:

38 "Section 9. R.S. 49:191(1)(h) and Children's Code Articles 509 and 610(I) are
39 hereby repealed."

40 AMENDMENT NO. 34

41 On page 23, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

42 "Section 6. Sections 5 through 8 of this Act shall become effective on June 30, 2026;
43 if vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, Sections 5 through
44 8 of this Act shall become effective on June 30, 2026, or on the day following such approval
45 by the legislature, whichever is later."

- 1 AMENDMENT NO. 35
- 2 On page 23, line 19, change "Section 6." to "Section 11."