

HB 152 -- SCHOOL OFFICERS (Solon)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety

This bill changes the laws regarding the reporting and investigation of alleged child abuse in schools and school district peace officers and school resource officers. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Repeals the provisions that prohibit the Children's Division in the Department of Social Services from having jurisdiction over or investigating any report of alleged child abuse related to the use of reasonable force to protect person or property or any spanking administered in a reasonable manner by specified school personnel;

(2) Allows the school board of any school district to commission school officers to enforce laws relating to crimes committed on school premises, at school activities, and on school buses through a memorandum of understanding with each law enforcement agency and county sheriff's office which has law enforcement jurisdiction over the school district's premises and location of school activities. Currently, only the school board of the Blue Springs School District has this authority;

(3) Specifies that an internal investigation into a report of child abuse or neglect cannot be initiated until a report to the division has been made;

(4) Specifies that a single report may be made if two or more members of a medical institution who are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated has failed to make the mandatory report must immediately make the report;

(5) Prohibits a supervisor or administrator from impeding or inhibiting the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect;

(6) Prohibits any employer from sanctioning or imposing any adverse employment action on any mandatory reporter for making a report; and

(7) Requires the Missouri State Training Center for the D.A.R.E. Program to develop the curriculum and certification requirements for school resource officers and specifies the minimum training requirements.