

HB 505 -- Child Abuse and Neglect

Sponsor: Haefner

This bill changes the laws regarding child abuse and neglect. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires a mandatory reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect employed in a school facility and the superintendent of the school district to report directly to the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services any student report of alleged sexual misconduct on the part of a teacher or other school employee;
- (2) Requires a mandatory reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect to immediately report it to the division. Currently, a mandatory reporter must immediately report or cause a report to be made to the division;
- (3) Specifies that an internal investigation into a report of child abuse or neglect can not be initiated until the mandatory 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;
- (7) Requires the Department of Public Safety to establish rules regarding the reimbursement of the costs of forensic examinations for children younger than 14 years of age, including establishing conditions and definitions for emergency and non-emergency forensic exams and specific qualifications for appropriate medical providers performing non-emergency forensic exams; and
- (8) Allows the Department of Public Safety to establish additional qualifications for appropriate medical providers performing non-emergency forensic evaluations for children younger than 14 years of age.