
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 929

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MANDATED REPORTERS, THE DURATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS AND THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

SUMMARY

This bill adds to the statutory list of mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect (1) individuals who have regular contact with and provide services to or on behalf of children through a contract with or credential from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), (2) victim services advocates employed by the Judicial Department's Office of Victim Services, and (3) employees of a Court Support Services Division-operated or -contracted juvenile justice program.

The bill modifies, from 45 calendar days to 33 business days, the time DCF has to complete a child abuse or neglect investigation.

The bill removes the DCF commissioner or her designee from the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission.

The bill also repeals a law requiring DCF to (1) annually report to the Children's Committee on certain at-risk children and youth in its care, including the number and age of children who are living in psychiatric hospitals, runaways, or homeless, and (2) conduct case and service reviews for such children.

Lastly, the bill repeals a law requiring DCF to provide written notification to the guardian and attorney of a child committed to DCF care as a delinquent (1) within 10 days of the receipt of a report of suspected abuse or neglect of such child, and (2) within 10 days of the conclusion of a DCF investigation substantiating abuse or neglect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except that the mandated reporter provision takes effect October 1, 2019, and the advisory commission provision takes effect upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

sSB 891, reported favorably by the Children's Committee, makes several changes to the statutes related to the failure to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Among other things, it requires DCF to expand its policy for the investigation of delayed mandated reports to include the failure of mandated reporters to make reports within the required time period.

sHB 6998, reported favorably by the Children's Committee, expands existing DCF child abuse and neglect investigation notification requirements to include notifying public and private schools when an employee of a school contractor is the subject of an abuse and neglect complaint.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/07/2019)