

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 451

2025 Regular Session

Bacala

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

DIGEST

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 the prohibition to receive information from another mandatory reporter.

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))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the engrossed bill

1. Remove school resource officer from the definition of "teaching or child care provider".
2. Remove prohibition on a school resource officer receiving a mandatory report that involves a school employee suspected of illegal activity.
3. Require 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.
4. Require 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.
5. Make technical changes.