The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST

SB 63 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Mizell

<u>Present law</u> provides for reports of child abuse or neglect where the abuser is believed to be a parent or caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not to be made to the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Further provides that all other reports are to be made to a local or state law enforcement agency.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and provides that if a report involves alleged sex trafficking, the provisions of <u>proposed law</u> also apply and all mandatory reporters shall report to DCFS regardless of whether there is alleged parental or caretaker culpability.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that DCFS shall communicate as soon as possible all reports involving alleged child victims of sex trafficking to the La. State Police for referral to local law enforcement.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that DCFS shall identify and assess all reports of alleged abuse and neglect involving a child known or suspected to be a victim of sex trafficking and coordinate with law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, other state agencies, and healthcare service providers to provide comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, regardless of whether there is alleged parental or caretaker culpability.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for required actions by DCFS when a child has been identified as a victim of sex trafficking which include making referrals for advocacy and care coordination, conducting face-to-face visits with the child and family, and educating the parents or other caretakers about possible high risk behaviors associated with sex trafficking victims.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that a parent or caretaker of a child identified as a victim of sex trafficking who has not abused or neglected the child is not required to participate in further assessments or services offered or recommended by DCFS.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides the department may delegate, in writing, the performance of the requirements of <u>proposed law</u>, but the department shall remain the responsible agency.

Effective January 1, 2023.

(Amends Ch.C. Art 610(A)(1); adds Ch.C. Art. 610(E)(4) and 610.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

original bill

- 1. Requires mandatory reporters to report all alleged child victims of sex trafficking.
- 2. Requires DCFS to report to the LSP.
- 3. Allows DCFS to delegate its duties under proposed law.
- 4. Provides for optional services for parents who have no culpability.
- 5. Changes the effective date.
- 6. Makes technical changes.