

HB 713 -- REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPONSOR: Lant

This bill specifies that upon the receipt of a hotline report of child abuse or neglect where the subject of the report is any person, less than 14 years of age, who has allegedly committed sexual abuse against another younger child, the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services must immediately communicate the report to the appropriate local office along with any relevant information as may be contained in the information system. Upon receipt of the report and information, the local office must use a family assessment and services approach to respond to the allegation contained in the report.

These provisions cannot prohibit the local office from commencing an investigation if it, at any point in using the family assessment and services approach, determines that an investigation is required. The investigation must comply with specified provisions and may include requesting assistance from the appropriate law enforcement agency.