

HB 1298 -- Erica's Law

Sponsor: LeVota

This bill establishes Erica's Law into Missouri's statutes. The bill changes the elements for the crime of murder in the first degree when a child is the victim. A person commits the crime if he or she knowingly causes the death of a child and a heinous element is involved in the commission of the crime. A heinous crime includes torturing the victim; intentionally inflicting great bodily harm; intentionally mutilating; exposing the victim to extreme inhuman conditions; being armed with a dangerous weapon or any article used in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon and the weapon is used to cause the victim to submit; having sexual penetration or sexual contact; or moving the victim from one location to another.

The bill also adds any adult person who resides in the same household and witnesses the abuse or neglect or possible abuse or neglect of a child to the list of mandatory reporters who are required to immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Division of Family Services.