

HB 393 -- Child Abuse and Neglect Reports

Sponsor: Schoeller

This bill changes the laws regarding hotline calls reporting suspected child abuse and neglect to the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires hotline and service workers involved in a case of a child death or severe injury to receive a preliminary evaluation by the division to determine if a performance assessment is required. A required assessment must be completed within three days of the child's death;
- (2) Requires the division to review cases where repeated calls regarding the same child occurred within a 72-hour time period to determine if the calls meet the criteria to initiate a child abuse and neglect report;
- (3) Requires hotline workers to advise individuals to call 911 when a child may be in immediate danger; and
- (4) Prohibits any division service worker who responds to a child abuse and neglect report initiated by a hotline call from leaving a business card, pamphlet, or other identifying information at a residence if there is no person present at the time of the attempted home visit.