

HCS HB 580 -- REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPONSOR: Byrd

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill changes the definition of what constitutes child abuse. Signs of an abused or neglected child can be, but are not limited to, severe malnutrition, severe bruising, lacerations, burns, fractures, ligature marks, or severe welting that are not the result of a medical condition or substantial evidence of sexual intercourse by an unmarried minor under the age of consent.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. Costs could exceed \$100,000. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill provides guidelines for mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Byrd.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst