

## HB 2121 -- Child Abuse and Neglect Registry

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires the local office of the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services to update the information system within 45 days, instead of the current 30 days, of the results of an investigation of a report of abuse or neglect. If an investigation involving the death of a child cannot be completed within 45 days, the division is required to update the information system at regular intervals and upon completion of the investigation. The division is prohibited from entering a determination into the Central Registry until the alleged perpetrator fails to request a review by the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board or a trial de novo in the circuit court within 30 days or a determination is made by the board that the alleged perpetrator has committed child abuse or neglect (Section 210.145, RSMo);

(2) Allows an alleged perpetrator to have access to his or her investigation records one year after the division provided written notice to the prosecuting attorney in the jurisdiction where the act is alleged to have occurred. The prosecuting attorney may petition the circuit court to extend the one-year period for good cause shown for a time as the court may determine is necessary to complete the investigation and to file any appropriate charges (Section 210.150); and

(3) Reduces, from 60 to 30 days, the period of time an alleged perpetrator has from the date of receipt of a notice of determination by the division to seek a reversal through a review by the board. In cases where criminal charges arising out of the investigation are pending, the request for review must be made within 30 days from when an indictment is returned, an information filed, the dismissal of the charges, or after the division's release of its investigative report to the alleged perpetrator (Section 210.152).