House Amendment NO
Offered By
AMEND Senate Bill No. 77, Page 1, In the title, Line 3, by deleting the words, "neighborhood youth development programs" and insert in lieu thereof the words, "child protection and reformation"; and
Further amend said bill, Page 1, Section A, by inserting after all of said line the following:
"210.145. 1. The division shall develop protocols which give priority to: (1) Ensuring the well-being and safety of the child in instances where child abuse or neglect has been alleged;
(2) Promoting the preservation and reunification of children and families consistent with
state and federal law;
(3) Providing due process for those accused of child abuse or neglect; and
(4) Maintaining an information system operating at all times, capable of receiving and
maintaining reports. This information system shall have the ability to receive reports over a single,
statewide toll-free number. Such information system shall maintain the results of all investigations,
family assessments and services, and other relevant information.
2. The division shall utilize structured decision-making protocols for classification purposes of all child abuse and neglect reports. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to
ensuring the well-being and safety of the child. All child abuse and neglect reports shall be initiated
within twenty-four hours and shall be classified based upon the reported risk and injury to the child.
The division shall promulgate rules regarding the structured decision-making protocols to be utilized
for all child abuse and neglect reports.
3. Upon receipt of a report, the division shall determine if the report merits investigation,
including reports which if true would constitute a suspected violation of any of the following:
section 565.020, 565.021, 565.023, 565.024, or 565.050 if the victim is a child less than eighteen
years of age, section 566.030 or 566.060 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age, or
other crimes under chapter 566 if the victim is a child less than eighteen years of age and the
perpetrator is twenty-one years of age or older, section 567.050 if the victim is a child less than
eighteen years of age, section 568.020, 568.030, 568.045, 568.050, 568.060, 568.080, or 568.090,
section 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, or 573.040, or an attempt to commit any such crimes. The
division shall immediately communicate all reports that merit investigation to its appropriate local office and any relevant information as may be contained in the information system. The local
division staff shall determine, through the use of protocols developed by the division, whether an
investigation or the family assessment and services approach should be used to respond to the
allegation. The protocols developed by the division shall give priority to ensuring the well-being and
safety of the child.
4. When the child abuse and neglect hotline receives three or more calls, within a

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seventy-two hour period, from one or more individuals concerning the same child, the division shall conduct a review to determine whether the calls meet the criteria and statutory definition for a child abuse and neglect report to be accepted. In conducting the review, the division shall contact the hotline caller or callers in order to collect information to determine whether the calls meet the criteria for harassment.

- 5. The local office shall contact the appropriate law enforcement agency immediately upon receipt of a report which division personnel determine merits an investigation and provide such agency with a detailed description of the report received. In such cases the local division office shall request the assistance of the local law enforcement agency in all aspects of the investigation of the complaint. The appropriate law enforcement agency shall either assist the division in the investigation or provide the division, within twenty-four hours, an explanation in writing detailing the reasons why it is unable to assist.
- 6. The local office of the division shall cause an investigation or family assessment and services approach to be initiated in accordance with the protocols established in subsection 2 of this section, except in cases where the sole basis for the report is educational neglect. If the report indicates that educational neglect is the only complaint and there is no suspicion of other neglect or abuse, the investigation shall be initiated within seventy-two hours of receipt of the report. If the report indicates the child is in danger of serious physical harm or threat to life, an investigation shall include direct observation of the subject child within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the report. Local law enforcement shall take all necessary steps to facilitate such direct observation. Callers to the child abuse and neglect hotline shall be instructed by the division's hotline to call 911 in instances where the child may be in immediate danger. If the parents of the child are not the alleged abusers, a parent of the child must be notified prior to the child being interviewed by the division. No person responding to or investigating a child abuse and neglect report shall call prior to a home visit or leave any documentation of any attempted visit, such as business cards, pamphlets, or other similar identifying information if he or she has a reasonable basis to believe the following factors are present:
  - (1) (a) No person is present in the home at the time of the home visit; and
- (b) The alleged perpetrator resides in the home or the physical safety of the child may be compromised if the alleged perpetrator becomes aware of the attempted visit;
  - (2) The alleged perpetrator will be alerted regarding the attempted visit; or
  - (3) The family has a history of domestic violence or fleeing the community.

If the alleged perpetrator is present during a visit by the person responding to or investigating the report, such person shall provide written material to the alleged perpetrator informing him or her of his or her rights regarding such visit, including but not limited to the right to contact an attorney. The alleged perpetrator shall be given a reasonable amount of time to read such written material or have such material read to him or her by the case worker before the visit commences, but in no event shall such time exceed five minutes; except that, such requirement to provide written material and

threat or danger, or the person responding to investigating the report is or feels threatened or in danger of physical harm. If the abuse is alleged to have occurred in a school or child care facility the

reasonable time to read such material shall not apply in cases where the child faces an immediate

- division shall not meet with the child in any school building or child-care facility building where
- 43 44 abuse of such child is alleged to have occurred. When the child is reported absent from the 45
  - residence, the location and the well-being of the child shall be verified. For purposes of this subsection, child care facility shall have the same meaning as such term is defined in section

47 210.201.

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7. The director of the division shall name at least one chief investigator for each local

division office, who shall direct the division response on any case involving a second or subsequent 2 incident regarding the same subject child or perpetrator. The duties of a chief investigator shall 3 include verification of direct observation of the subject child by the division and shall ensure 4 information regarding the status of an investigation is provided to the public school district liaison. 5 The public school district liaison shall develop protocol in conjunction with the chief investigator to 6 ensure information regarding an investigation is shared with appropriate school personnel. The 7 superintendent of each school district shall designate a specific person or persons to act as the public 8 school district liaison. Should the subject child attend a nonpublic school the chief investigator shall 9 notify the school principal of the investigation. Upon notification of an investigation, all 10 information received by the public school district liaison or the school shall be subject to the provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C., Section 12 1232g, and federal rule 34 CFR, Part 99.

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- 8. The investigation shall include but not be limited to the nature, extent, and cause of the abuse or neglect; the identity and age of the person responsible for the abuse or neglect; the names and conditions of other children in the home, if any; the home environment and the relationship of the subject child to the parents or other persons responsible for the child's care; any indication of incidents of physical violence against any other household or family member; and other pertinent data.
- 9. When a report has been made by a person required to report under section 210.115, the division shall contact the person who made such report within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the report in order to ensure that full information has been received and to obtain any additional information or medical records, or both, that may be pertinent.
- 10. Upon completion of the investigation, if the division suspects that the report was made maliciously or for the purpose of harassment, the division shall refer the report and any evidence of malice or harassment to the local prosecuting or circuit attorney.
- 11. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used whenever conducting the investigation as determined by the division in conjunction with local law enforcement. Multidisciplinary teams shall be used in providing protective or preventive social services, including the services of law enforcement, a liaison of the local public school, the juvenile officer, the juvenile court, and other agencies, both public and private.
- 12. For all family support team meetings involving an alleged victim of child abuse or neglect, the parents, legal counsel for the parents, foster parents, the legal guardian or custodian of the child, the guardian ad litem for the child, and the volunteer advocate for the child shall be provided notice and be permitted to attend all such meetings. Family members, other than alleged perpetrators, or other community informal or formal service providers that provide significant support to the child and other individuals may also be invited at the discretion of the parents of the child. In addition, the parents, the legal counsel for the parents, the legal guardian or custodian and the foster parents may request that other individuals, other than alleged perpetrators, be permitted to attend such team meetings. Once a person is provided notice of or attends such team meetings, the division or the convenor of the meeting shall provide such persons with notice of all such subsequent meetings involving the child. Families may determine whether individuals invited at their discretion shall continue to be invited.
- 13. If the appropriate local division personnel determine after an investigation has begun that completing an investigation is not appropriate, the division shall conduct a family assessment and services approach. The division shall provide written notification to local law enforcement prior to terminating any investigative process. The reason for the termination of the investigative process shall be documented in the record of the division and the written notification submitted to local law enforcement. Such notification shall not preclude nor prevent any investigation by law enforcement.

Page 3 of 9

14. If the appropriate local division personnel determines to use a family assessment and services approach, the division shall:

- (1) Assess any service needs of the family. The assessment of risk and service needs shall be based on information gathered from the family and other sources;
- (2) Provide services which are voluntary and time-limited unless it is determined by the division based on the assessment of risk that there will be a high risk of abuse or neglect if the family refuses to accept the services. The division shall identify services for families where it is determined that the child is at high risk of future abuse or neglect. The division shall thoroughly document in the record its attempt to provide voluntary services and the reasons these services are important to reduce the risk of future abuse or neglect to the child. If the family continues to refuse voluntary services or the child needs to be protected, the division may commence an investigation;
- (3) Commence an immediate investigation if at any time during the family assessment and services approach the division determines that an investigation, as delineated in sections 210.109 to 210.183, is required. The division staff who have conducted the assessment may remain involved in the provision of services to the child and family;
- (4) Document at the time the case is closed, the outcome of the family assessment and services approach, any service provided and the removal of risk to the child, if it existed.
- 15. Within thirty days of an oral report of abuse or neglect, the local office shall update the information in the information system. The information system shall contain, at a minimum, the determination made by the division as a result of the investigation, identifying information on the subjects of the report, those responsible for the care of the subject child, and other relevant dispositional information. The division shall complete all investigations within thirty days, unless good cause for the failure to complete the investigation is documented in the information system. If a child involved in a pending investigation dies, the investigation shall remain open until the division's investigation surrounding the death is completed. If the investigation is not completed within thirty days, the information system shall be updated at regular intervals and upon the completion of the investigation. The information in the information system shall be updated to reflect any changes in classification under subsection 2 of this section or subsection 1 of section 210.152, or any subsequent findings, including any changes to the findings based on an administrative or judicial hearing on the matter.
- 16. A person required to report under section 210.115 to the division and any person making a report of child abuse or neglect made to the division which is not made anonymously shall be informed by the division of his or her right to obtain information concerning the disposition of his or her report. Such person shall receive, from the local office, if requested, information on the general disposition of his or her report. Such person may receive, if requested, findings and information concerning the case. Such release of information shall be at the discretion of the director based upon a review of the reporter's ability to assist in protecting the child or the potential harm to the child or other children within the family. The local office shall respond to the request within forty-five days. The findings shall be made available to the reporter within five days of the outcome of the investigation. If the report is determined to be unsubstantiated, the reporter may request that the report be referred by the division to the office of child advocate for children's protection and services established in sections 37.700 to 37.730. Upon request by a reporter under this subsection, the division shall refer an unsubstantiated report of child abuse or neglect to the office of child advocate for children's protection and services.
- 17. The division shall provide to any individual who is not satisfied with the results of an investigation information about the office of child advocate and the services it may provide under sections 37.700 to 37.730.
  - 18. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child the fact that a report may

have been made pursuant to sections 210.109 to 210.183 shall not be admissible. However:

- (1) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the introduction of evidence from independent sources to support the allegations that may have caused a report to have been made; and
- (2) The court may on its own motion, or shall if requested by a party to the proceeding, make an inquiry not on the record with the children's division to determine if such a report has been made.

If a report has been made, the court may stay the custody proceeding until the children's division completes its investigation.

- 19. In any judicial proceeding involving the custody of a child where the court determines that the child is in need of services under paragraph (d) of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 211.031 and has taken jurisdiction, the child's parent, guardian or custodian shall not be entered into the registry.
- 20. The children's division is hereby granted the authority to promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of section 207.021 and chapter 536 to carry out the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183.
- 21. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2000, shall be invalid and void.
- 210.152. 1. All identifying information, including telephone reports reported pursuant to section 210.145, relating to reports of abuse or neglect received by the division <u>after July 1, 2014</u>, shall be <u>classified</u> in one of the following tiers based on level of harm to the child:
- (1) Tier one: severe harm to a child. Such classification shall include, but not be limited to, all cases of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse;
- (2) Tier two: moderate harm to a child. Such classification shall include, but not be limited to, physical abuse that is not categorized into tier one, serious neglect, or multiple substantiated reports of abuse or neglect over time; or
- (3) Tier three: mild harm to a child. Such classification shall include, but not be limited to, a single substantiated report of abuse or neglect that is not classified in tier one or tier two.
- By July 1, 2014, the division shall promulgate rules to establish the standards for each classification in this subsection.
- 2. The identifying information described in subsection 1 of this section shall be retained by the division and removed from the records of the division as follows:
- (1) For investigation reports contained in the central registry[, identifying information shall be retained by the division]:
  - (a) All tier one reports shall be placed on the registry for life;
- (b) All tier two reports shall be placed on the registry for five years, unless the individual is found to have committed another act of child abuse or neglect in such five-year period, in which case the individual shall be classified as a tier one report. Any tier two report shall be eligible for record closure at the expiration of such five-year period; and
- (c) All tier three reports shall be placed on the registry for two years and shall automatically be closed at the end of such two-year period; except that, a person shall be placed back on the registry for any subsequent acts of abuse or neglect such person is found to have committed;
  - (2) (a) For investigation reports initiated against a person required to report pursuant to

Page 5 of 9

section 210.115, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division and where the division determines the allegation of abuse or neglect was made maliciously, for purposes of harassment or in retaliation for the filing of a report by a person required to report, identifying information shall be expunged by the division within forty-five days from the conclusion of the investigation;

- (b) For investigation reports, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division and where the division determines the allegation of abuse or neglect was made maliciously, for purposes of harassment or in retaliation for the filing of a report, identifying information shall be expunged by the division within forty-five days from the conclusion of the investigation;
- (c) For investigation reports initiated by a person required to report under section 210.115, where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying information shall be retained for five years from the conclusion of the investigation. For all other investigation reports where insufficient evidence of abuse or neglect is found by the division, identifying information shall be retained for two years from the conclusion of the investigation. Such reports shall include any exculpatory evidence known by the division, including exculpatory evidence obtained after the closing of the case. At the end of such time period, the identifying information shall automatically be removed from the records of the division and destroyed;
- (3) For reports where the division uses the family assessment and services approach, identifying information shall be retained by the division <u>in accordance with the provisions of this subsection;</u>
- (4) For reports in which the division is unable to locate the child alleged to have been abused or neglected, identifying information shall be retained for ten years from the date of the report and then shall be removed from the records of the division.
- [2.] 3. Within ninety days after receipt of a report of abuse or neglect that is investigated, the alleged perpetrator named in the report and the parents of the child named in the report, if the alleged perpetrator is not a parent, shall be notified in writing of any determination made by the division based on the investigation. The notice shall advise either:
- (1) That the division has determined by a probable cause finding prior to August 28, 2004, or by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, that abuse or neglect exists, the classification of the report under subsection 2 of section 210.145 or subsection 1 of this section, and that the division shall retain all identifying information regarding the abuse or neglect for the duration of time specified in subsection 1 of this section; that such information shall remain confidential and will not be released except to law enforcement agencies, prosecuting or circuit attorneys, or as provided in section 210.150; that the alleged perpetrator has sixty days from the date of receipt of the notice to seek reversal of the division's determination through a review by the child abuse and neglect review board as provided in subsection 4 of this section; or
- (2) That the division has not made a probable cause finding or determined by a preponderance of the evidence that abuse or neglect exists.
- [3.] 4. The children's division may reopen a case for review at the request of the alleged perpetrator, the alleged victim, or the office of the child advocate if new, specific, and credible evidence is obtained that the division's decision was based on fraud or misrepresentation of material facts relevant to the division's decision and there is credible evidence that absent such fraud or misrepresentation the division's decision would have been different. If the alleged victim is under the age of eighteen, the request for review may be made by the alleged victim's parent, legal custodian, or legal guardian. All requests to reopen an investigation for review shall be made within a reasonable time and not more than one year after the children's division made its decision. The division shall not reopen a case for review based on any information which the person requesting the review knew, should have known, or could by the exercise of reasonable care have known before the

Page 6 of 9

date of the division's final decision in the case, unless the person requesting the review shows by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she could not have provided such information to the division before the date of the division's final decision in the case. Any person, other than the office of the child advocate, who makes a request to reopen a case for review based on facts which the person knows to be false or misleading or who acts in bad faith or with the intent to harass the alleged victim or perpetrator shall not have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, for providing the information and requesting that the division reopen the investigation. Any person who makes a request to reopen an investigation based on facts which the person knows to be false shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The children's division shall not reopen an investigation under any circumstances while the case is pending before a court of this state nor when a court has entered a final judgment after de novo judicial review pursuant to this section.

- [4.] <u>5.</u> Any person named in an investigation as a perpetrator who is aggrieved by a determination of abuse or neglect by the division as provided in this section may seek an administrative review by the child abuse and neglect review board pursuant to the provisions of section 210.153. Such request for review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the division's decision under this section. In those cases where criminal charges arising out of facts of the investigation are pending, the request for review shall be made within sixty days from the court's final disposition or dismissal of the charges.
- [5.] <u>6.</u> In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board shall sustain the division's determination if such determination was supported by evidence of probable cause prior to August 28, 2004, or is supported by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, and is not against the weight of such evidence. The child abuse and neglect review board hearing shall be closed to all persons except the parties, their attorneys and those persons providing testimony on behalf of the parties.
- [6.] 7. If the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board, the alleged perpetrator may seek de novo judicial review in the circuit court in the county in which the alleged perpetrator resides and in circuits with split venue, in the venue in which the alleged perpetrator resides, or in Cole County. If the alleged perpetrator is not a resident of the state, proper venue shall be in Cole County. The case may be assigned to the family court division where such a division has been established. The request for a judicial review shall be made within sixty days of notification of the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board decision. In reviewing such decisions, the circuit court shall provide the alleged perpetrator the opportunity to appear and present testimony. The alleged perpetrator may subpoena any witnesses except the alleged victim or the reporter. However, the circuit court shall have the discretion to allow the parties to submit the case upon a stipulated record.
- [7.] <u>8.</u> In any such action for administrative review, the child abuse and neglect review board shall notify the child or the parent, guardian or legal representative of the child that a review has been requested.
- 9. (1) Individuals placed on the child abuse and neglect registry after July 1, 2014, may petition the children's division for review and record closure of all identifying information from the registry based on such individual's classification under subsection 1 of this section. Individuals placed on the child abuse and neglect registry prior to July 1, 2014, may petition the children's division for classification under subsection 1 of this section and record closure if such individual is eligible based on his or her classification under subsection 1 of this section.
- (2) A petition for record closure under this subsection shall state good cause for removal, which shall include, but not be limited to:
  - (a) Proof of rehabilitation;

(b) Acceptance of personal responsibility for placement on the registry;

(c) A bona fide need for removal from the registry; and

- (d) At least two letters supporting the petition from individuals not related by blood or marriage.
- (3) The children's division shall make a decision on a petition within ninety days of receiving such petition. The division shall grant a petition if the petitioner has satisfied the criteria in subdivision (2) of this subsection and the division determines that the petitioner poses no significant risk to children or other vulnerable populations.
- (4) Any individual aggrieved by the decision of the children's division may seek review by the child abuse and neglect review board in accordance with the provisions of subsection 5 of this section. Any individual aggrieved by the decision of the child abuse and neglect review board may seek de novo judicial review of such decision in accordance with the provisions of subsection 7 of this section. Any individual whose petition for record closure is denied may refile such petition for record closure two years after the final denial of such petition.
- (5) When the division grants record closure under this subsection, the division shall maintain a record of the underlying report and investigation or assessment of child abuse or neglect. Identifying information on such a record shall not be available to individuals or entities requesting an examination of the central registry from the division for employees or prospective employees, including but not limited to entities listed in subdivision (8) of subsection 2 of section 210.150.
- (6) The children's division shall be a party to any action before the child abuse and neglect review board or court regarding record closure on the child abuse and neglect registry.
- 210.153. 1. There is hereby created in the department of social services the "Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board", which shall provide an independent review of child abuse and neglect determinations in instances in which the alleged perpetrator is aggrieved by the decision of the children's division and review record closure petitions under subdivision (4) of subsection 9 of section 210.152. The division may establish more than one board to assure timely review of the determination and record closure petitions.
- 2. The board shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, and shall include:
  - (1) A physician, nurse or other medical professional:
  - (2) A licensed child or family psychologist, counselor or social worker;
- (3) An attorney who has acted as a guardian ad litem or other attorney who has represented a subject of a child abuse and neglect report;
  - (4) A representative from law enforcement or a juvenile office.
  - 3. Other members of the board may be selected from:
  - (1) A person from another profession or field who has an interest in child abuse or neglect;
  - (2) A college or university professor or elementary or secondary teacher:
  - (3) A child advocate;
  - (4) A parent, foster parent or grandparent.
  - 4. The following persons may participate in a child abuse and neglect review board review:
  - (1) Appropriate children's division staff and legal counsel for the department;
- (2) The alleged perpetrator, who may be represented pro se or be represented by legal counsel. The alleged perpetrator's presence is not required for the review to be conducted. The alleged perpetrator may submit a written statement for the board's consideration in lieu of personal appearance; and
- (3) Witnesses providing information on behalf of the child, the alleged perpetrator or the department. Witnesses shall only be allowed to attend that portion of the review in which they are presenting information.
  - 5. The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall receive

Page 8 of 9

reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties.

6. All records and information compiled, obtained, prepared or maintained by the child abuse and neglect review board in the course of any review shall be confidential information.

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- 7. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation of the child abuse and neglect review board except as otherwise provided for in this section. These rules and regulations shall, at a minimum, describe the length of terms, the selection of the chairperson, confidentiality, notification of parties and time frames for the completion of the review.
- 8. Findings of probable cause to suspect prior to August 28, 2004, or findings by a preponderance of the evidence after August 28, 2004, of child abuse and neglect by the division which are substantiated by court adjudication shall not be heard by the child abuse and neglect review board."; and

Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references accordingly.

Page 9 of 9