

HCS HB 260 -- CHILD WELFARE (Brown (94))

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Children and Families

The bill includes victims of sex trafficking in the definitions of abuse and neglect and specifies that any person who takes control of a child be deception, force, or coercion is responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child.

The bill specifies that in instances where the division is unable to determine the identity of a perpetrator of child abuse or neglect, the investigative reports shall be retained by the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services, but the unknown perpetrator shall not be placed on the central registry. The child's parents and legal guardian must be notified that the division shall retain, utilize, and disclose all information and findings as provided in family assessment and services cases when the division is unable to determine the identity of the perpetrator. The bill also allows the division to reopen a case for review if new, specific, and credible evidence is obtained.

The bill defines the word "relative" to include a person who is not related to the child but has a close relationship with the child or child's family when determining foster home placement of a child. The bill also removes a trusted adult that has a preexisting relationship with the child from the order of preference for placement of a child.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

This bill is similar to HB 2492 (2016).