

HB 3278 -- DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS FOR PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

SPONSOR: Laubinger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health by a vote of 15 to 0.

This bill adds to the list of entities that may access reports of abuse and neglect toward vulnerable adults the Department of Social Services for persons referred to the Department and any member of a "multidisciplinary adult protection team", as defined in the bill. The name of the reporter will not be disclosed unless provided for in current law, or unless provided to the Department of Mental Health for investigating reported incidents of abuse and neglect of vulnerable persons.

The bill permits members of a multidisciplinary adult protection team to make available to members of the team all information and records that are appropriate and necessary to conduct team activities for the benefit of eligible adults.

The case information received by members of the team will be maintained as confidential, and any person to whom information is released is prohibited from using or releasing the information except in the proper performance of that person's duties.

Any member of the multidisciplinary team may share information that is acquired in the team member's professional capacity with other members of the multidisciplinary team to assist the team in its function for the benefit of the eligible adult.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the multidisciplinary teams are not a new idea, as multiple counties have them, but there is no framework or direction they are given currently. The goal is to have coordinated wraparound services for victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Efforts are currently being duplicated due to silos and fragmented services.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Laubinger; Cade Tremain, Department of Health & Senior Services; Melanie Highland, Department of Health & Senior Services; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.