

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 231

BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

CHILDREN/CARE: Provides relative to procedures for reporting child abuse

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 610(A)(1), relative to children in need of care  
3 and mandatory reporting; to require the reporting of abuse and neglect perpetrated  
4 by teaching or child care providers and school coaches; to provide for the  
5 applicability of reporting requirements to teaching or child care providers and school  
6 coaches; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Children's Code Article 610(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to  
9 read as follows:

10 Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States  
11 Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

12 A.(1) Reports of child abuse or neglect or that such was a contributing factor  
13 in a child's death, where the abuser is believed to be a parent or caretaker, a person  
14 who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship with the parent or  
15 caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent or caretaker as a  
16 spouse whether married or not, shall be made immediately to the department. A  
17 permitted reporter shall make a report through the designated state child protection  
18 reporting hotline telephone number or in person at any child welfare office. A  
19 mandatory reporter shall make a report through the designated state child protection  
20 reporting hotline telephone number, via the Louisiana Department of Children and

1 Family Services Mandated Reporter Portal online, or in person at any child welfare  
 2 office. Reports in which the abuse or neglect is believed to be perpetrated by  
 3 someone other than a caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or  
 4 engagement relationship with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same  
 5 residence with the parent or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, and the  
 6 caretaker is not believed to have any responsibility for the abuse or neglect shall be  
 7 made immediately to a local or state law enforcement agency. Abuse perpetrated by  
 8 a school employee, teacher, or coach shall be reported to a local or state law  
 9 enforcement agency. Dual reporting to both the department and the local or state law  
 10 enforcement agency is permitted. If a report involves alleged sex trafficking, all  
 11 mandatory reporters shall report to the department regardless of whether there is  
 12 alleged parental or caretaker culpability.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 18 effective on the day following such approval.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 231 Engrossed                                      2024 Regular Session                                      Mandie Landry

**Abstract:** Clarifies that abuse perpetrated by a school employee shall be reported to a local or state law enforcement agency.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 610(A)(1)) provides the procedures for reporting abuse or neglect of a child.

Proposed law retains present law and clarifies that abuse perpetrated by a school employee must be reported to a local or state law enforcement agency.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends Ch.C. Art. 610(A)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Remove teaching and school staff and coaches from the definition of "caretaker".
2. Remove provision clarifying that mandatory reports shall not be exempt from reporting child abuse because the person perpetrating the abuse is a school employee.
2. Add that child abuse perpetrated by a school employee, teacher, or coach shall be reported to a local or state law enforcement agency.