

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 768

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

CHILDREN/WELFARE SVCS: Provides relative to reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 610(A), relative to child abuse and neglect  
3 reporting; to provide for reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families; to  
4 provide for the duties of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services  
5 in reporting child abuse and neglect to the United States Department of Defense  
6 Family Advocacy Program; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

10 Art. 610. Reporting procedure; ~~report reports~~ to the legislature and the United  
11 States 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 through  
17 the designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number. Reports in  
18 which the abuse or neglect is believed to be perpetrated by someone other than a  
19 caretaker, a person who maintains an interpersonal dating or engagement relationship  
20 with the parent or caretaker, or a person living in the same residence with the parent

1 or caretaker as a spouse whether married or not, and the caretaker is not believed to  
2 have any responsibility for the abuse or neglect shall be made immediately to a local  
3 or state law enforcement agency. Dual reporting to both the department through the  
4 designated state child protection reporting hotline telephone number and the local or  
5 state law enforcement agency is permitted.

6 (2) In an investigation of a report of abuse or neglect allegedly committed  
7 by a person responsible for a child 's care, custody, or welfare, the department shall  
8 determine whether the person is an active duty member of the United States armed  
9 forces or the spouse of a member on active duty. If the department determines the  
10 person is an active duty member of the United States armed forces or the spouse of  
11 a member on active duty, the department shall notify the United States Department  
12 of Defense Family Advocacy Program at the closest active duty military installation  
13 of the investigation.

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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 768 Original

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Hoffmann

**Abstract:** Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services to report allegations of child abuse or neglect concerning military families to the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program.

Present law provides for the reporting procedure within the Dept. of Children and Family Services for child abuse or neglect cases.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services in cases of abuse or neglect involving military families to notify the United States Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program concerning the investigation.

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