



Senate Aging and Youth Committee

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Summary **SB684 PN 732**

This legislation requires the Department of Health to administer a Child Death Review Program. Child death review teams shall be formed at the county and state levels to review the deaths of children under the age of 20 for the purpose of promoting safety and reducing child fatalities.

The state and local child death review teams shall be comprised of individuals representing agencies and professions with knowledge and experience dealing with issues related to child fatalities. The State child death review team shall coordinate the local teams and help with the collection of data. They shall develop protocols to be used in the review, provide training and technical assistance to the local teams, and identify best prevention strategies. The State team shall also be responsible for submitting a report to the General Assembly and the Governor on the Child Death Review Program on an annual basis.

Local child death review teams shall review all child deaths and shall be granted access to all records necessary to conduct the review. Findings shall be reported to the child death review data collection system. The local teams shall also report biennially to the State child death review team.

Review teams are required to treat all information as confidential and each local team member must sign a confidentiality agreement applicable to all proceedings and reviews. Individuals or agencies that provide information to child death review teams in good faith shall not be subject to liability. Proceedings or records of a review team are privileged and not subject to discovery, subpoena or introduction into evidence in any trial.

Effective Date

The act shall take effect in 90 days.

Background

This bill would essentially codify current practice. The State child death review program was created in November 1994 and includes 58 local teams representing 60 counties. Local teams report their findings to a child death review data collection system that is maintained and funded by the National Center for Child Death Review. The Child Death Review Program is funded by both the Department of Health and the Department of Public Welfare through the federal Maternal and Child Health block grant.