



Senate Aging and Youth Committee

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Summary SB 26 PN 34

This legislation amends Title 23, Child Protective Services, to eliminate the separate standard for reporting child abuse by school employees.

Under existing law, the requirement of a school employee to report suspected abuse of a student by another school employee is required only if that abuse falls under the categories of serious bodily injury, sexual abuse, or sexual exploitation. Serious bodily injury is defined in the Child Protective Services Law as an injury which creates "a substantial risk of death or which causes serious permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member or organ." Unless an injury rises to this level, it does not have to be reported to the school administrator or investigated by law enforcement or the county agency. In addition, it will not be filed in the Statewide central register.

A single standard would require school employees to report the same instances of child abuse as other mandated reporters such as child care workers, foster care workers, members of the clergy and social service workers. This includes instances of serious physical injury and serious mental injury. Serious physical injury is defined as "an injury that causes a child severe pain or significantly impairs a child's physical functioning, either temporarily or permanently."

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

Amendment A07928

This amendment is technical in nature. It repeals section C.1 which pertains to the separate reporting standards for school employees and was overlooked in the bill as introduced. It also provides for those reports which may be under investigation when the Act goes into effect to proceed under the former Subchapter C.1. The definition of student is deleted.