

CONFIDENTIAL
LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015

Bill Number: H.41 Name of Bill: Human services; child welfare; reporting child abuse and neglect; mandated reporters

Agency/Dept: VT State Police Author of Bill Review: Lt Brian Miller

Date of Bill Review: 01/23/15 Related Bills and Key Players: _____

Status of Bill: (check one)

☒ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1st body ☐ As passed by both bodies

Recommended Position:

☒ Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in # 8 below

Analysis of Bill

1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses: This bill requires mandated reports to contact DCF and the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction within 24 hours of becoming aware of an allegation of sexual abuse of a child. The mandated reporter list is increased as well as the addition of "camp" employees. Due to the requirement to notify both DCF and the local police it will help prevent cases from not being investigated with due diligence.
2. Is there a need for this bill? Yes, the addition of the reporters going to both DCF and law enforcement will increase the attention given to each case,
3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department? Law enforcement may find additional cases are created that otherwise would be handled by DCF alone. This will create addition work and recording requirements for the police agencies.
4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? It will not affect DCF as they already receive these complaints. There may be slightly more as the mandated reporter list is expanded.
5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? Businesses or care agencies for children will need to make sure their employees comply with this law with due diligence.

6. Other Stakeholders:

6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why? Child Protection advocates

6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why? Some law enforcement may cite lack of resources for the additional calls and screening needed for the increase in calls of suspected abuse.

7. Rationale for recommendation: *The duplication of making complaints of suspected sexual child abuse is*

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not a bad idea in light of recent cases. It will improve and increase communication between DCF and law enforcement. The law only addresses sexual abuse and this may be confusing for mandated reports of when to report the different types of abuse and to whom.

8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill: *None*

9. Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission?

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document



Date: 01/27/15