

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

March 14, 2023

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Chair of Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB23-1142 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, strike lines 2 through 24 and substitute:

2 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-5-111, amend  
3 (4)(h) and (4)(i); and add (4)(j) and (6) as follows:

4 **26-5-111. Statewide child abuse reporting hotline system -**  
5 **child abuse hotline steering committee - rules on consistent processes**  
6 **in response to reports and inquiries for information - working group**  
7 **- legislative declaration - definitions.** (4) The state board is authorized  
8 to adopt rules, based upon the recommendations of the child abuse hotline  
9 steering committee, and may revise rules, as necessary, including, but not  
10 limited to, the following:

11 (h) A consistent screening process with criteria and steps for the  
12 county department to follow in responding to a report or inquiry; and

13 (i) Rules establishing a consistent decision-making process with  
14 criteria and steps for the county department to follow when deciding how  
15 to act on a report or inquiry or when to take no action on a report or  
16 inquiry; AND

17 (j) THE DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE TO BE USED BY THE HOTLINE  
18 SYSTEM AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS TO NOTIFY CALLERS THAT THE CALL  
19 IS BEING RECORDED.

20 (6) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONVENE A WORKING  
21 GROUP TO REVIEW THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE ASKED WHEN A PERSON  
22 CALLS IN TO THE HOTLINE SYSTEM TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR  
23 NEGLECT. NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15, 2023, THE WORKING GROUP  
24 SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO STANDARDIZE THE QUESTIONS AS  
25 MUCH AS PRACTICABLE. THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF THE  
26 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

27 (I) TWO MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT A COUNTY DEPARTMENT, ONE

- 1 FROM AN URBAN COUNTY AND ONE FROM A RURAL COUNTY;  
2 (II) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE COUNTY ATTORNEYS, ONE FROM AN  
3 URBAN COUNTY AND ONE FROM A RURAL COUNTY;  
4 (III) THE HOTLINE SYSTEM COORDINATOR, OR THE COORDINATOR'S  
5 DESIGNEE;  
6 (IV) THE CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN, OR THE OMBUDSMAN'S  
7 DESIGNEE;  
8 (V) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
9 PROGRAM, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-7.5-102 (3);  
10 (VI) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS THE OFFICE OF RESPONDENT  
11 PARENTS' COUNSEL CREATED IN SECTION 13-92-103;  
12 (VII) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD'S  
13 REPRESENTATIVE CREATED IN SECTION 13-91-104;  
14 (VIII) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATES,  
15 ONE WHO REPRESENTS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES  
16 AND ONE WHO IS A STATEWIDE MEMBER;  
17 (IX) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A CHILD ABUSE ADVOCATE;  
18 (X) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS LAW ENFORCEMENT  
19 AGENCIES; AND  
20 (XI) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION  
21 THAT ADVOCATES FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES.  
22 (b) THE WORKING GROUP MAY COORDINATE WITH OTHER TASK  
23 FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS, AS NECESSARY, TO DISCUSS RELATED  
24 TOPICS."

25 Strike page 3 and substitute:

26 "SECTION 2. **Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
27 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety."

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