

Legislative Analysis



TRAINING MATERIALS FOR MANDATORY REPORTERS OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

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House Bill 4120 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Julie Rogers
Committee: Judiciary
Complete to 4-12-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4120 would amend the Child Protection Law to require comprehensive training materials to be created for individuals required to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

The act currently requires certain individuals to report to DHHS if they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or child neglect. These individuals are commonly referred to as “mandated reporters” or “mandatory reporters.” Mandated reporters include teachers, school counselors, school administrators, medical professionals, social workers, licensed counselors, social service technicians, marriage therapists, professionals employed in a Friend of the Court office, law enforcement officers, members of the clergy, and regulated child care providers. The act provides a detailed method for reporting the abuse and notifying DHHS.

The bill would add a new section to the act to require the creation of comprehensive training materials for individuals required to report suspected child abuse or child neglect. DHHS, in consultation with the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, would have to create the materials within 180 days after the bill’s effective date. DHHS would have to make the training materials publicly available on its website, in addition to any other form it chooses.

Employers or organizations that employ mandated reporters would have to provide the training materials to those employees. However, this requirement would not apply to an employer or organization that provides its own employee training that is similar in substance to the training created under the bill.

The bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

Proposed MCL 722.623b

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4120 is a reintroduction of House Bill 4854 of the 2021-22 legislative session, House Bill 4377 of the 2019-20 legislative session, and House Bill 5796 of the 2017-18 legislative session. Each of those bills was passed by the House of Representatives. The bill is part of a larger package of bills to address sexual assault that were originally introduced following the revelation of hundreds of instances in which Larry Nassar, a nationally known physician employed by Michigan State University who also provided medical treatments to members of the USA Olympics women’s gymnastics team, was found to have engaged in practices that constituted criminal sexual conduct.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4120 would have a minimal fiscal impact on state expenditures to the Department of Health and Human Services. The department currently has training materials and resources for court mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect available on their website. The fiscal impact of the bill would depend upon the cost of revising or replacing current training programs. Since the department would be making training materials available, there would be no significant fiscal impact on local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.