



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 31

PRINTERS NO. 1849

PRIME SPONSOR: Fontana

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Senate Bill 31, Printer's Number 1849, amends Chapter 63 (Child Protective Services Law) of Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to eliminate the separate standards that currently exist for school employees and staff in institutions in regard to reporting suspected child abuse. This legislation is effective December 31, 2014.

ANALYSIS: This legislation repeals Subchapter C.1 of Chapter 63 which contains the separate standards for school employees regarding child abuse substantiation and reporting procedures. With this legislation all mandated reporters, including school employees and staff in institutions, will be required to report any suspected child abuse directly to the Department of Public Welfare's Childline and immediately thereafter notify the person in charge or the designated agent of the institution, school, facility or agency. The person notified must facilitate the cooperation of the entity with the investigation. The mandated reporter must also submit a written report to the Department within 48 hours of calling Childline.

This legislation also allows county agencies prior to completing child fatality or near fatality reports, to release the following information: the identity of the child, but only in the case of a child fatality; the identity of the agency, if the child was in the custody of a public or private agency; the identity of the public or private agency under contract with a county agency to provide services to the child and the child's family in the child's home prior to the child's death or near fatality; a description of the services provided; and the identity of the county agency that convened a child fatality or near fatality review team. The department is already allowed to release this information but is no longer permitted to release the identity of a child in a near fatality report.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Department of Public Welfare does not anticipate an increase in costs for County Children and Youth agencies as a result of this legislation that cannot be absorbed within current or proposed funding.

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: March 19, 2014

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.