

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 401

SESSION: 2000 Regular Session

TOPIC: Child Protection

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Overview

This act addresses state policy on protecting children exposed to domestic violence. It also addresses emergency shelters informing parents of a runaway's location and status.

Section

- 1 **Definitions.** Amends § 626.566, subd. 2. In the child abuse reporting act, repeals a portion of the definition of "neglect" relating to children being exposed to domestic violence.
- 2 **Child exposed to domestic violence.** Adds new § 626.5552. Creates a new section of law clarifying when a child is "exposed to domestic violence." Requires local welfare agencies to consider certain factors when fashioning a response to cases involving children exposed to domestic violence.
- 3 **Budget proposal; child protection.** Requires the commissioner of finance to consult with the commissioners of revenue and human services to present proposals and funding options for child protection alternative response programs and for addressing the protection of children exposed to domestic violence.
- 4 **Parental and law enforcement notification.** Clarifies that emergency shelters must comply with existing laws relating to child protection and child abuse reporting. Requires emergency shelters to attempt to notify a runaway's parent or legal guardian of the runaway's location and status within 72 hours. Requires the shelter to inform the parent or guardian of the runaway's condition and the circumstances surrounding admission, unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Provides that compelling reasons may include abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, and abandonment.
- 5 **Effective date.** Provides that sections 1 and 3 are effective immediately. Provides that section 2 is effective July 1, 2001, if funding is authorized for implementation.

