

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 432

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Version: As introduced

Authors: Meslow and others

Subject: First-degree murder crime involving child abuse

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Overview

This bill expands the first-degree murder crime that applies when a person causes the death of a minor while committing child abuse. Under the bill, the first-degree murder crime applies when the person has engaged in a past pattern of child abuse upon any child, not just the child on which the person has previously perpetrated child abuse.

Section

- 1** **Murder in the first degree.** Expands the first-degree murder crime that applies when a person causes the death of a minor while committing child abuse to apply when the perpetrator has previously engaged in child abuse against any child, not just the child whose death the perpetrator causes. Currently, this crime occurs when a perpetrator causes the death of a child while committing child abuse and the person has engaged in a past pattern of child abuse upon "the child" and the death occurs under circumstances manifesting an extreme indifference to human life. Under the bill, the crime would occur when a perpetrator has engaged in a past pattern of child abuse on "a child," not necessarily the same child, and the death occurs under circumstances manifesting an extreme indifference to human life.
- 2** **Effective date.** August 1, 2003, for crimes committed on or after that date.