

Legislative Analysis



CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS: DEFINITION OF SEVERE PHYSICAL INJURY

Mitchell Bean, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4420

Sponsor: Rep. Fulton Sheen

Committee: Family and Children Services

Complete to 6-20-05

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4420 AS INTRODUCED 3-1-05

The Child Protection Law requires that in the course of an investigation of an allegation of child abuse or neglect, a child protective services (CPS) investigator must seek the assistance of and cooperate with law enforcement officials within 24 hours after becoming aware that certain specified conditions exist.

One of those conditions is when abuse or neglect resulting in "severe physical injury" to a child requires medical treatment or hospitalization. The definition of "severe physical injury" includes a list of injuries and also includes "any other physical injury that seriously impairs the health or physical well being of a child." House Bill 4420 would strike that general description and replace it with: "any other severe physical injury that threatens the life of a child." (The underlined portions are the new language.)

MCL 722.628(3)(c)

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill could reduce state investigative costs and local law enforcement costs to the extent that the bill's provisions reduce the involvement of local law enforcement officials in abuse and neglect investigations that may no longer meet the definition of "severe physical injury" in the bill. There is insufficient information available to determine the amount of any cost reduction.

Legislative Analyst: E. Best
Fiscal Analyst: Robert Schneider

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