

Bill No. CS for SB 2170

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_

<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Senators Ostalkiewicz and Dudley moved the following substitute for amendment (430776):

**Senate Amendment**

On page 76, line 5, delete that line

insert:

(10) In lieu of, or subsequent to, the administrative procedures provided in this section, a person who knowingly and willfully makes a false report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child, or a person who counsels another to make a false report may be civilly liable for damages suffered including reasonable attorney fees and costs as a result of the filing of the false report. If the name of the person who filed the false report or counseled another to do so has not been disclosed under subsection (9), the department as custodian of the records may be named as a party in the suit until the court determines upon an in camera inspection of the records and report that there is a reasonable basis for believing that the report was false and that the identity of the reporter may be disclosed for the purpose of proceeding

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1 with a lawsuit for civil damages resulting from the filing of  
2 the false report. The alleged perpetrator may submit witness  
3 affidavits to assist the court in making this initial  
4 determination.

5 (11)~~(10)~~ Any person making a report who is acting in  
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