

By Representative Baker

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to reports of child abuse;  
3           amending s. 39.201, F.S.; providing for  
4           mandatory reporting of child abuse,  
5           abandonment, or neglect regardless of the  
6           suspected perpetrator; providing an effective  
7           date.

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9           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the children  
10          of Florida require protection from child abuse, abandonment,  
11          and neglect, and

12           WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to require  
13          the reporting of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect  
14          regardless of who might perpetrate such a crime, and

15           WHEREAS, the professionals required to report suspected  
16          child abuse, abandonment, or neglect should not be placed in  
17          the position of having to make a predetermination of who the  
18          perpetrator might be, NOW, THEREFORE,

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20          Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 39.201, Florida  
23          Statutes, is amended to read:

24           39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment,  
25          or neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse  
26          hotline.--

27           (1) Any person, including, but not limited to, any:

28           (a) Physician, osteopathic physician, medical  
29          examiner, chiropractic physician, nurse, or hospital personnel  
30          engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of  
31          persons;

- 1           (b) Health or mental health professional other than  
2 one listed in paragraph (a);  
3           (c) Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means  
4 for healing;  
5           (d) School teacher or other school official or  
6 personnel;  
7           (e) Social worker, day care center worker, or other  
8 professional child care, foster care, residential, or  
9 institutional worker;  
10          (f) Law enforcement officer; or  
11          (g) Judge,

12  
13 who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is  
14 abused, abandoned, or neglected ~~by a parent, legal custodian,~~  
15 ~~caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare~~  
16 shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in  
17 the manner prescribed in subsection (2).

18           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
19 law.

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22   HOUSE SUMMARY

23           Revises requirement for mandatory reporting by specified  
24 professionals of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to  
25 provide for such reporting regardless of the suspected  
perpetrator.  
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