

CS/HB 7165 — OGSR/Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams

by Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council, Governmental Affairs Policy and Rep. K. Roberson (SB 884 by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs)

Domestic violence fatality review teams (team or teams) are established at a local, regional, or state level. The purposes of the team is to learn how to prevent domestic violence by intervening early and improving the response of an individual and the system to domestic violence. In accomplishing this purpose, teams may review events leading up to a domestic violence incident, available community resources, current laws and policies, actions taken by the systems and individuals related to the incident and the parties, and any information or action deemed relevant by the team.

This bill reenacts the public-records and a public-meetings exemption for the teams. Any confidential or exempt information obtained by a team retains its confidential or exempt status. In addition, any information that identifies a victim of domestic violence or the victim's children is confidential and exempt from public-records requirements when contained in a record created by a team. Those portions of meetings of a team regarding domestic violence fatalities and their prevention, during which confidential or exempt information is discussed, are also exempt from public-meetings requirements.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 108-5