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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5558**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to give copies of original or investigation reports of alleged abuse and neglect to the alleged victim's parent or other legal representative unless they are, or live with, the alleged or substantiated perpetrator. Under current law, these individuals may only access the reports upon request.

Existing law requires DDS to investigate reports of abuse and neglect of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people who receive services from the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services. The law also requires DDS to maintain a registry of, among others, certain former employees who were fired from or left their jobs due to substantiated abuse or neglect, and to make the registry available to specified agencies and employers.

The bill requires the DDS commissioner to report quarterly, instead of annually as under current law, on abuse and neglect reports filed under these laws to the Human Services and Public Health committees, and to post the report on its website. It also expands the report's required content to include (1) whether abuse and neglect complaints were independently investigated by DDS promptly and thoroughly, (2) the average time it took the department to investigate complaints, and (3) recommendations for any needed improvements.

Similarly, the bill requires the commissioner to review department policies and procedures on abuse and neglect investigations and reports quarterly, instead of every five years as under current law, and post any updates to policies and procedures on the department's website.

As part of the review, the bill requires the commissioner to review

the department's method for sharing information on original reports and investigation reports of abuse and neglect with the reported victim or his or her legal representative (except as described above) while generally keeping records related to its registry of former employees confidential. Current law already requires the commissioner to review this method regarding substantiated abuse and neglect complaints.

The bill also requires the review to include an evaluation of systems to screen people hired to provide services to DDS program participants and any recommendations needed to improve background checks of these people.

Lastly, the bill requires the commissioner to ensure all DDS staff are trained in state law's information sharing requirements for abuse and neglect complaints.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the quarterly reporting requirements take effect July 1, 2026.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bill***

sHB 5514, § 2, favorably reported by the Public Health Committee, prohibits DDS from notifying or giving copies of original or investigation reports of alleged abuse and neglect to a parent or guardian if they are, or live with, the alleged or substantiated perpetrator.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23    Nay 0    (03/19/2026)