

By: Wu

H.B. No. 694

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the response time for investigating a report of abuse or neglect of a child.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 261.301(d), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The executive commissioner shall by rule assign priorities and prescribe investigative procedures for investigations based on the severity and immediacy of the alleged harm to the child. The primary purpose of the investigation shall be the protection of the child. The rules must require the department, subject to the availability of funds, to:

(1) immediately respond to a report of abuse or ~~and~~ neglect that involves circumstances in which the death of the child or substantial bodily harm to the child would result unless the department immediately intervenes;

(2) respond within 48 ~~[24]~~ hours to a report of abuse or ~~and~~ neglect that is assigned the highest priority, other than a report described by Subdivision (1); and

(3) respond within five days ~~[72 hours]~~ to a report of abuse or ~~and~~ neglect that is assigned the second highest priority.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a report of the abuse or neglect of a child made on or after the

1 effective date of this Act. A report made before the effective date
2 of this Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the report
3 was made, and the former law is continued in effect for that
4 purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.