

By: Kuempel

H.B. No. 2206

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the full investigation of certain reports of child abuse and neglect made to the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 261, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 261.3014 to read as follows:

Sec. 261.3014. INVESTIGATION OF REPORT REQUIRED. (a) The department shall conduct a full investigation of each report of abuse or neglect made by:

(1) a first responder, as defined by Section 421.095, Government Code;

(2) an employee of a public or private primary or secondary school, including an open-enrollment charter school; or

(3) a physician.

(b) The department may not conduct an alternative response under Section 261.3015 to a report of abuse or neglect made to the department by a person listed in Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Section 261.3015(b), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Section 261.3014 and notwithstanding ~~[Notwithstanding]~~ Section 261.301, the department may, in accordance with this section and department rules, conduct an alternative response to a report of abuse or neglect if the

1 report does not:

2 (1) allege sexual abuse of a child;

3 (2) allege abuse or neglect that caused the death of a
4 child; or

5 (3) indicate a risk of serious physical injury or
6 immediate serious harm to a child.

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