

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 2848

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to requiring the Department of Family and Protective  
3 Services to create a physician multidisciplinary team to assist in  
4 certain investigations of child abuse and neglect.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 261, Family Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 261.3017 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 261.3017. PHYSICIAN MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM;  
9 CONSULTATION. (a) The department shall create a physician  
10 multidisciplinary team to consult with the department during abuse  
11 and neglect investigations.

12 (b) The multidisciplinary team must include radiologists,  
13 geneticists, and endocrinologists who have experience in  
14 identifying the following health conditions:

- 15 (1) rickets;  
16 (2) Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome;  
17 (3) osteogenesis imperfecta;  
18 (4) vitamin D deficiency; and  
19 (5) other similar metabolic bone diseases or  
20 connective tissue disorders.

21 (c) The department shall provide training to each physician  
22 on the multidisciplinary team. The training must provide  
23 physicians with information and support regarding:

- 24 (1) the identification of the physical symptoms of

1 abuse and neglect; and

2 (2) the alternative causes of physical symptoms that  
3 normally indicate child abuse or neglect when no other indicators  
4 of abuse and neglect are present.

5 (d) The department shall consult with the multidisciplinary  
6 team created under this section in an investigation of alleged  
7 child abuse and neglect in which physical symptoms are present but  
8 there are no other indicators of abuse and neglect.

9 (e) In an investigation described by Subsection (d), the  
10 department may not proceed in a case against a parent accused of  
11 child abuse or neglect until the department and multidisciplinary  
12 team have considered and ruled out other possible medical  
13 explanations for the child's physical symptoms.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.