86R2376 MCK-D

By:  Farrar H.B. No. 2485

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the investigation of allegations of abuse and neglect in a residential detention facility.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter E, Chapter 261, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 261.411 to read as follows:

Sec. 261.411.  INVESTIGATIONS IN RESIDENTIAL DETENTION FACILITIES. (a) This section applies only to a residential child-care facility that:

(1)  is operated by or under a contract with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws; and

(2)  detains children.

(b)  The Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt rules relating to the commission's investigation of allegations of abuse or neglect in a residential child-care facility described by Subsection (a).

(c)  The rules must require the commission to:

(1)  immediately investigate an allegation of abuse or neglect of a child detained in a residential child-care facility described by Subsection (a);

(2)  communicate with the child who is the alleged victim of the abuse or neglect and the alleged victim's family; and

(3)  ensure the alleged victim is provided opportunities to communicate with the victim's parent, guardian, or another family member.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.