

By: Gates

H.B. No. 4304

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the contents of the annual child fatality report
3 published by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 261.204(b), Family Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) The report published under Subsection (a) must:

8 (1) accurately represent all abuse-related and
9 neglect-related child fatalities in this state, including child
10 fatalities investigated under Subchapter F, Chapter 264, and other
11 child fatalities investigated by the department; ~~and~~

12 (2) aggregate the fatalities by investigative
13 findings and case disposition, including the following
14 dispositions:

15 (A) abuse and neglect ruled out;

16 (B) unable to determine cause of death;

17 (C) reason to believe abuse or neglect occurred;

18 (D) reason to believe abuse or neglect
19 contributed to child's death;

20 (E) unable to complete review; and

21 (F) administrative closure; and

22 (3) aggregate the fatalities by cause of death, if
23 determinable, including:

24 (A) accidental drowning or submersion;

- 1 (B) assault by drowning or submersion;
- 2 (C) discharge of a firearm;
- 3 (D) drug overdose;
- 4 (E) assault by other physical means, including
5 strangulation or suffocation;
- 6 (F) accidental suffocation;
- 7 (G) exposure to smoke, fire, or flames;
- 8 (H) malnutrition;
- 9 (I) deprivation of medical care;
- 10 (J) motor vehicle accident;
- 11 (K) heatstroke caused by being left in a motor
12 vehicle; or
- 13 (L) sudden infant death syndrome.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.