

SB 51 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Prepared By: C. Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Refines provisions concerned with investigations of suspected child abuse or sexual conduct in educational settings. Specifies required notifications and content of notice made by Department of Education (DOE) upon receipt of specified information from the Department of Human Services (DHS). Prohibits DOE from disclosing any identifying information about persons originating reports of suspected abuse. Prohibits further disclosure by recipients of notice and deems same is not a public record. Defines administrators for purposes of statutes governing youth dating violence. Clarifies that DOE's obligation to notify others when an investigation of an unlicensed person is complete, includes legal guardians and known suspects. Clarifies notice of complete investigation need only be provided to regulatory boards DOE knows are relevant, and only if a report is substantiated. Specifies retention of all records by DOE for 25 years. Clarifies right to appeal determination that a report is substantiated via contested case process. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment dated 02/05/21] Provides for some discretion with regard to notifying educational providers and disclosure of information DOE determines necessary to ensure child safety.

BACKGROUND: