

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

BILL: CS/CS/SB 338

[S0338.HMS]

SPONSOR: Senator Cowin

SUBJECT: Protection of Children

PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Children and Families

DATE: April 29, 1999

I. Amendments Contained in Message

House Amendment 1--762419

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message

House Amendment 1 specifies that the Department of Children and Family Services must consider valid and accept any report **alleging harm as defined in s. 39.01, F.S.**, that is received by the central abuse hotline from a judge, teacher or any other professional school official, or physician who is acting in his or her professional capacity.

House Amendment 1 modifies the factors that must be included in the development of the rule specifying criteria that determines those cases that the Department of Children and Family Services must take into custody and petition the court pursuant to chapter 39, F.S., or must conduct an administrative review. Prior abuse reports **with findings** that involve the child or caregiver is specified in the amendment as a factor that must be included in the rule. Previously, the bill included prior abuse reports that involve the child or caregiver.

House Amendment 1 removes the provision from the bill specifying that full-time positions of the Department of Children and Family Services directly involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect are not subject to the position-lapse adjustments that are included in the General Appropriations Act or to agency imposed position-lapse adjustments included in annual agency operating budgets. This amendment reduces the fiscal impact of the bill (this provision was discussed with Senate Fiscal Policy Committee staff).