



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Bill Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

### **Am. H.B. 137\***

132nd General Assembly

(As Reported by S. Government Oversight and Reform)

**Reps.** Kent, Ashford, Miller, Clyde, Manning, Rezabek, Celebrezze, Rogers, Anielski, Antonio, Arndt, Boccieri, Boggs, Boyd, Brenner, Brown, Carfagna, Craig, Cupp, Edwards, Fedor, Galonski, Gavarone, Ginter, Greenspan, Hagan, Hambley, Holmes, Howse, Hughes, Ingram, Johnson, Kelly, Kick, Landis, Lanese, Lang, LaTourette, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, O'Brien, Patterson, Patton, Pelanda, Perales, Ramos, Reece, Reineke, Ryan, Schaffer, Scherer, Schuring, Sheehy, K. Smith, R. Smith, Sprague, Stein, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes, Thompson, West, Young

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

- Adds peace officers to the list of professionals who must report known or suspected child abuse and neglect, subject to an exception added by the bill.
- Expands the types of peace officers who may receive reports of known or suspected child abuse and neglect.

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## **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The bill adds peace officers to the list of persons who, acting in a professional or official capacity, must report known or suspected child abuse or neglect. Under current law, a mandatory reporter must make the report to the county public children services agency ("PCSA") or a municipal or county peace officer in the county where the child resides or where the abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred. Under the bill, the report may be made to the county PCSA or any of the following types of peace officer: a sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer of a township or joint police district, marshal, deputy marshal, municipal police officer, or a state highway patrol trooper. If the person making the report is a peace officer, the officer must report to the county

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\* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

PCSA. Individuals who are not listed as mandatory reporters may, but are not required to, make a report in such instances.

Existing law requires a peace officer who receives such a report to refer it to the appropriate PCSA. However, under the bill, a peace officer is not required to make that referral if an arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the appropriate public children services agency being contacted concerning the child abuse or neglect. The PCSA must investigate each report of child abuse or neglect that it receives within 24 hours.<sup>1</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-21-17
Reported, H. Criminal Justice	10-11-17
Passed House (93-0)	11-01-17
Reported, S. Gov't Oversight & Reform	---

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 2151.421.

