

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R10613 JRD-D

H.B. 1715
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Human Services
5/3/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, any person who has cause to believe that a resident of a nursing home has been or may be affected by abuse or neglect is required to report the abuse or neglect. The contents of the report must include the name and address of the resident, the name and address of the person responsible for the care of the resident, if available, and any other relevant information. However, information relating to the person making the report is not required by law. Requiring the person making the report to include his or her address would permit an investigator to contact the person for any necessary additional information. The person's information would be deleted prior to making the report public. H.B. 1715 would require that a person making the report include his or her phone or address.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1715 requires the phone number or address of a person making certain reports about child abuse or convalescent home abuses to be noted.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 242.123, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (c), to provide that a report of abuse or neglect under Section 242.122 or of other conduct or conditions under Section 242.1225, except for certain anonymous reports, should also include the address or phone number of the person making the report so that an investigator can contact the person for any necessary additional information. Requires the phone number and address as well as the name of the person making the report to be deleted from any copy of any type of report that is released to the public, to the institution, or to an owner or agent of the institution.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 242.127, Health and Safety Code, to include the address and phone number among the items that are confidential in an investigation under this chapter.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.