

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 899

AN ACT

To repeal sections 192.2405 and 210.115, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to reporting of abuse and neglect, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 192.2405 and 210.115, RSMo, are repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 192.2405, 192.2510, 210.115, 210.191, 273.410, and 273.415, to read as follows:

192.2405. 1. The following persons shall be required to immediately report or cause a report to be made to the department under sections 192.2400 to 192.2470:

(1) Any person having reasonable cause to suspect that an eligible adult presents a likelihood of suffering serious physical harm, or bullying as defined in subdivision (2) of section 192.2400, and is in need of protective services; and

(2) Any adult day care worker, animal control officer, animal humane investigator as defined in section 273.415, chiropractor, Christian Science practitioner, coroner, dentist, embalmer, employee of the departments of social services, mental health, or health and senior services, employee of a local area agency on aging or an organized area agency on aging program, emergency medical technician, firefighter, first responder, funeral director, home health agency, home health agency employee, hospital and clinic personnel engaged in the care or treatment of others, in-home services owner or provider, in-home services operator or employee, law enforcement officer, long-term care

facility administrator or employee, medical examiner, medical resident or intern, mental health professional, minister, nurse, nurse practitioner, optometrist, other health practitioner, peace officer, pharmacist, physical therapist, physician, physician's assistant, podiatrist, probation or parole officer, psychologist, social worker, or other person with the responsibility for the care of an eligible adult who has reasonable cause to suspect that the eligible adult has been subjected to abuse or neglect or observes the eligible adult being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a duly ordained minister, clergy, religious worker, or Christian Science practitioner while functioning in his or her ministerial capacity shall not be required to report concerning a privileged communication made to him or her in his or her professional capacity.

2. Any other person who becomes aware of circumstances that may reasonably be expected to be the result of, or result in, abuse or neglect of an eligible adult may report to the department.

3. The penalty for failing to report as required under subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of this section is provided under section 565.188.

4. As used in this section, "first responder" means any person trained and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or treatment. Such persons may include, but shall not be limited to, emergency first responders, police officers, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, firefighters, or emergency medical technicians.

192.2510. 1. All persons providing protective services to eligible adults, as such terms are defined in section 192.2400, and who have direct contact with such

adults, shall be required to complete at least one and one-half hours of training within the first sixty days of employment. The training shall include the following:

(1) Requirements to report animal abuse or neglect and the penalties associated with failure to report under section 273.410;

(2) How to identify animal abuse or neglect;

(3) How to make a report of animal abuse or neglect;
and

(4) The relationship between eligible adult abuse or neglect and animal abuse or neglect.

2. The department of health and senior services, in consultation with the department of agriculture, shall develop or adapt and use available training materials for the training required under this section. Persons required to complete training under this section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during regular working hours.

3. As used in this section, the term "animal" shall mean dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds.

210.115. 1. When any physician, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatrist, resident, intern, nurse, hospital or clinic personnel that are engaged in the examination, care, treatment or research of persons, and any other health practitioner, psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, day care center worker or other child-care worker, juvenile officer, probation or parole officer, jail or detention center personnel, teacher, principal or other school official, minister as provided by section 352.400, peace officer or law enforcement official, animal control officer, animal humane investigator as defined in section 273.415, volunteer or personnel of a community service program that offers support services for families in crisis to assist in the

delegation of any powers regarding the care and custody of a child by a properly executed power of attorney pursuant to sections 475.600 to 475.604, or other person with responsibility for the care of children has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall immediately report to the division in accordance with the provisions of sections 210.109 to 210.183. No internal investigation shall be initiated until such a report has been made. As used in this section, the term "abuse" is not limited to abuse inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care, custody and control as specified in section 210.110, but shall also include abuse inflicted by any other person.

2. If two or more members of a medical institution who are required to report jointly have knowledge of a known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, a single report may be made by a designated member of that medical team. Any member who has knowledge that the member designated to report has failed to do so shall thereafter immediately make the report. Nothing in this section, however, is meant to preclude any person from reporting abuse or neglect.

3. The reporting requirements under this section are individual, and no supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit any reporting under this section. No person making a report under this section shall be subject to any sanction, including any adverse employment action, for making such report. Every employer shall ensure that any employee required to report pursuant to subsection 1 of this section has immediate and unrestricted access to communications technology necessary to make an immediate

report and is temporarily relieved of other work duties for such time as is required to make any report required under subsection 1 of this section.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of sections 210.109 to 210.183, any child who does not receive specified medical treatment by reason of the legitimate practice of the religious belief of the child's parents, guardian, or others legally responsible for the child, for that reason alone, shall not be found to be an abused or neglected child, and such parents, guardian or other persons legally responsible for the child shall not be entered into the central registry. However, the division may accept reports concerning such a child and may subsequently investigate or conduct a family assessment as a result of that report. Such an exception shall not limit the administrative or judicial authority of the state to ensure that medical services are provided to the child when the child's health requires it.

5. In addition to those persons and officials required to report actual or suspected abuse or neglect, any other person may report in accordance with sections 210.109 to 210.183 if such person has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect.

6. Any person or official required to report pursuant to this section, including employees of the division, who has probable cause to suspect that a child who is or may be under the age of eighteen, who is eligible to receive a certificate of live birth, has died shall report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner. If, upon review of the circumstances and medical information, the

medical examiner or coroner determines that the child died of natural causes while under medical care for an established natural disease, the coroner, medical examiner or physician shall notify the division of the child's death and that the child's attending physician shall be signing the death certificate. In all other cases, the medical examiner or coroner shall accept the report for investigation, shall immediately notify the division of the child's death as required in section 58.452 and shall report the findings to the child fatality review panel established pursuant to section 210.192.

7. Any person or individual required to report may also report the suspicion of abuse or neglect to any law enforcement agency or juvenile office. Such report shall not, however, take the place of reporting to the division.

8. If an individual required to report suspected instances of abuse or neglect pursuant to this section has reason to believe that the victim of such abuse or neglect is a resident of another state or was injured as a result of an act which occurred in another state, the person required to report such abuse or neglect may, in lieu of reporting to the Missouri children's division, make such a report to the child protection agency of the other state with the authority to receive such reports pursuant to the laws of such other state. If such agency accepts the report, no report is required to be made, but may be made, to the children's division.

9. For the purposes of providing supportive services or verifying the status of a youth as unaccompanied or homeless for the purposes of accessing supportive services, the fact that a child is an unaccompanied youth as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(6) is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect,

unless the child is under sixteen years of age or is an incapacitated person, as defined in section 475.010. Nothing in this subsection shall limit a mandated reporter from making a report under this section if the mandated reporter knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that an unaccompanied youth has been or may be a victim of abuse or neglect.

210.191. 1. All children's division employees, and contractors for children's services, who have direct contact with children through the state's child protection and welfare system shall be required to complete at least one and one-half hours of training within the first sixty days of employment or contract. The training shall include the following:

(1) Requirements to report animal abuse or neglect and the penalties associated with failure to report under section 273.410;

(2) How to identify animal abuse or neglect;

(3) How to make a report of animal abuse or neglect;

and

(4) The relationship between child abuse or neglect and animal abuse or neglect.

2. The division, in consultation with the department of agriculture, shall develop or adapt and use available training materials for the training required under this section. Persons required to complete training under this section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during regular working hours.

3. As used in this section, the term "animal" shall mean dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds.

273.410. 1. When any psychologist, mental health professional, social worker, school counselor, teacher, or other school professional, or juvenile officer, law

enforcement or peace officer, probation or parole officer, home health aide, adult or child protective services worker, or volunteer or personnel of a community service program that offers support or advocacy services for children in foster care has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect or observes an animal being subjected to conditions or circumstances that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, that person shall make a report to the hotline established and operated by the Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA) within one day.

2. The hotline worker shall request all of the following information for the report:

(1) The name and description of the animal involved, if known;

(2) The address and telephone number of the owner or other person responsible for the care of the animal, if known;

(3) The nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect; and

(4) Any other information that the person making the report believes may be useful in establishing the existence of the suspected abuse or neglect or the identity of the person causing the abuse or neglect.

3. Upon receiving a report of suspected abuse or neglect, MACA shall provide the report to any duly-authorized law enforcement official, county or municipal animal control officer, or any Missouri peace officer standards and training (POST)-certified or MACA-certified animal cruelty investigator.

4. Any person required to report animal abuse or neglect under this section shall be immune from civil and criminal liability in connection with making any required

report if the person acted in good faith when making such report.

5. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any information identifying a person who reports suspected animal abuse or neglect under this section shall be confidential and shall not be deemed a public record and shall not be subject to the provisions of section 109.180 or chapter 610.

6. No person required to make a report of animal abuse or neglect under this section shall knowingly make a false report. The penalty for making a false report and the defenses to prosecution shall be the same as under section 575.080.

7. If an agency or political subdivision of the state determines that an employee who is a mandated reporter under this section has failed to make a report as required by this section, the agency or political subdivision shall issue a written notice to such employee that shall include a finding of facts in support of the failure to make a report and an explanation of the reporting requirement. Such notice shall not be retained in a permanent employment file and shall be retained in a separate file or database maintained by the agency or political subdivision. Such notice shall be considered a closed record under the provisions of chapter 610.

8. Any person required to make a report under this section who is subject to professional licensure and who fails to make a report as required by this section shall be subject to discipline by his or her respective licensing board as follows:

(1) For the first instance of a failure to report, the licensing board shall issue a written notice to such employee that shall include a finding of facts in support of

the failure to make a report and an explanation of the reporting requirement;

(2) For a second instance of a failure to report, the licensing board shall impose a fine of one hundred dollars;

(3) For a third and each subsequent instance of a failure to report, the licensing board shall impose a fine of five hundred dollars.

9. As used in this section, the term "animal" shall mean dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds.

273.415. 1. All persons employed or serving as animal control officers or animal humane investigators who have direct contact with animals shall be required to complete at least one and one-half hours of training within the first sixty days of employment. The training shall include the following:

(1) Requirements to report child abuse or neglect under section 210.115 or eligible person abuse or neglect under section 192.2405 and the penalties associated with failure to report such abuse or neglect;

(2) How to identify child or eligible person abuse or neglect;

(3) How to make a report of child or eligible person abuse or neglect; and

(4) The relationship between child, eligible adult, and animal abuse or neglect.

2. The children's division and the department of health and senior services, in consultation with the department of agriculture, shall develop or adapt and use available training materials for the training required under this section. Persons required to complete training under this section shall be provided with opportunities to do so during regular working hours.

3. As used in this section, the following terms shall:

(1) "Animal", dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds;

(2) "Animal humane investigator", a duly-authorized county or municipal animal control officer or any Missouri peace officer standards and training (POST)-certified or Missouri Animal Control Association (MACA)-certified animal cruelty investigator.