

- SUBJECT:** Code of Criminal Procedure procedures for child abuse investigations
- COMMITTEE:** Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Goodman, A. Reyna, E. Reyna, Menendez, Morrison, Naishtat
0 nays
3 absent — P. King, Nixon, Tillery
- WITNESSES:** For — Russell Halvorsen; Austin Tighe, Justice for Children
Against — None
On — Charles Childress, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
- BACKGROUND:** Family Code, sec. 261.301 requires the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) or another designated agency to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect jointly with the appropriate state or local law enforcement agencies. Most law enforcement agencies rely for guidelines on the Code of Criminal Procedure, which does not specify that local law enforcement agencies must investigate these reports jointly with DPRS.
- DIGEST:** HB 1267 would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to require the appropriate local law enforcement agency to investigate a report alleging serious physical or sexual abuse of a child by the child's parent or guardian jointly with DPRS or any other agency designated to investigate abuse.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2001.