

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3113
By: Dunnam (Hinojosa)
Criminal Justice
5/22/2003
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is some confusion among health care professionals about requirements to report teenage sexual activity to law enforcement. The confusion stems from a Senate amendment to H.B. 360, 77th Legislature, which was introduced to end the sexual victimization of children forced to engage in sexual performances by expanding the definition of "abuse" to include sexual performance by a child. Furthermore, the Texas Senate amendment added language explicitly covering some Penal Code offenses that were already included in the law's general definition. H.B. 3113 clarifies the definition of abuse by limiting the term to provide that abuse includes sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 261.001(l), Family Code, to redefine "abuse."

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.