

HB 2323 -- Missouri Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence Commission

Sponsor: Hubbard

This bill establishes the Missouri Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence Commission consisting of 19 members of various specified professions and groups appointed by the Governor; the directors from the departments of Public Safety and Health and Senior Services, or their designee; the division director of the Children's Division, or his or her designee; the Attorney General, or his or her designee; and a representative from the State Highway Patrol's crime laboratory. The commission will serve as an advisory board for the newly established Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence Section within the Department of Social Services. The section, with the assistance of the departments of Public Safety and Health and Senior Services, will have the authority and responsibility to:

- (1) Administer and distribute moneys received through block grants, federal grants, and the Children's Justice Act;
- (2) Receive and expend moneys from grants, donations, and other sources to carry out its responsibilities;
- (3) Educate victim service providers, professionals, law enforcement, and court personnel about issues, interventions, and other matters associated with child abuse, rape, and domestic violence;
- (4) Research, develop, and disseminate resource materials;
- (5) Work with local multi-disciplinary teams in Missouri to coordinate investigations and provide service delivery to children who have been severely mistreated and to review child death cases for children younger than eighteen years of age;
- (6) Provide support, coordination, and technical assistance to victim service providers;
- (7) Develop a database that analyzes treatment programs and intervention methods used to treat victims, families, and perpetrators of crimes of domestic violence, child abuse, and rape; and
- (8) Provide recommendations to the Governor on immediate needs and priorities on the issues of child abuse, domestic violence, and rape.