

Regular Session, 2008
HOUSE BILL NO. 1214
BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

ACT No. 752

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 551, relative to child abuse; to further state
3 legislative intent by providing for interaction between certain parties; and to provide
4 for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. Children's Code Article 551 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 Art. 551. Legislative findings

9 The legislature finds that society has a responsibility to protect children from
10 abuse and neglect. Provision of independent counsel for abused and neglected
11 children is an essential due process right provided by Louisiana law to ensure sound
12 and fair ~~decision-making~~ decisionmaking concerning children's safety, permanency,
13 and well-being. Counsel providing representation in child protection proceedings
14 should have specialized knowledge and skills essential for effective representation,
15 and should participate in multidisciplinary interaction together with other
16 professionals involved with the child, including interdisciplinary communication,
17 investigation, discovery, meetings, conferences, proceedings, and administrative
18 hearings. Resources to support the provision of legal representation of children
19 should be used efficiently and equitably to assure qualified representation throughout
20 the state.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.