

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 594
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Author:	Sen. Rader
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Bill Analysis

SB 594 changes the word “enabling” as it relates to child abuse crimes to “failing to protect from.” The measure establishes a new penalty for child abuse that does not result in great bodily harm or for failing to protect from child abuse. A person found guilty of such crimes shall be subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000.00 and/or a maximum term of imprisonment of 7 years in the custody of the Department of Corrections or 1 year in the county jail. The measure establishes an affirmative defense for failure to protect from child abuse. A defendant may claim a reasonable fear of great bodily injury or death, show that they experienced domestic abuse, or voluntarily took steps to end the abuse or neglect. The measure provides that child neglect shall not include a child who engages in independent activities unless the person responsible for the child’s health, safety, or welfare willfully disregards any harm or threatened harm to the child.

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