

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 870</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request No.</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Sen. Rader</b>
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**Bill Analysis**

SB 870 creates the Accountability, Transparency, and Protection for Exploited Youth Act. The measure requires employees and contractors of a state-run juvenile facility, private contractor, or group home under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) to report any form of sexual misconduct or exploitation between staff, volunteers, or contractors with juveniles. The reports shall be filed with the facility supervisor and the Office of Juvenile Affairs' Independent Oversight Committee (IOC). Individuals who fail to report such incidents shall be guilty of a felony and subject to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 2 years and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000.00. Such persons shall also be held civilly liable.

The IOC shall conduct investigations separately from internal reviews, subpoena witnesses, gather evidence, and work in collaboration with law enforcement as well as forward such investigations to the district attorney. The measure provides that the OJA shall be held civilly liable if a court of proper jurisdiction finds that they were negligent in responding to reports of sexual misconduct. The measure requires the OJA to provide annual training to its employees on reporting requirements as well as identifying sexual misconduct and coercive relationships. The measure specifies that parents of a child, law enforcement, attorneys representing the child, court-appointed advocates, and officers of the court shall have access to the records of a case involving sexual violence against the minor.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor