

# **One Hundred Second Legislature - Second Session - 2012**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB993**

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**Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: February 03, 2012**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 993 would amend Revised Statute 28-728. This statute was originally created in 1992 to ensure that those parties critical to the investigation of child abuse (law enforcement, child protective services and prosecution) were cooperating in their efforts and were sharing information to improve decision making and case outcomes. In 2004 and 2007, this statute was revised and the language needs to be strengthened once more to create a solidified community response. These changes would ensure that child abuse victims have access to a child advocacy center for the forensic interview, medical exam and related support services. It would require that each county have protocols for: 1) outlining mandatory reporting of child abuse; 2) defining the roles and responsibilities of Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, and other response agencies; and 3) ensuring that coordination of these teams is occurring at all levels of the community response (voluntary or court involved). Not only would these changes reinforce the multi-system response through the child abuse investigation and treatment teams, they would ensure that communication, coordination and collaboration are occurring across all disciplines.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Brad Ashford**