

s/AWCJR

**AMENDMENT TO BILL NO. 35-0031
Offered by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**

Bill No. 35-0031 is amended as follows:

(a) Section 1:

(1) On page 1, line 10, by inserting “who may be an advocate, counselor, therapist, the non-offending parent, or someone with whom the child is familiar who can support the child throughout the entire process and afterwards” after “support”;

(2) On page 2, line 10, after “health,” insert “mental health,”;

(3) On page 2, line 24, strike “and”;

(4) On page 3, line 2, strike the period after “children” and insert “and;” and add a paragraph (7) that reads as follows:

“(7) leaving a child in the care of a person that is known to be a registered sex offender of children.”;

(5) On page 3, line 6, by inserting “, or death as a result of physical injury” after “welfare” and on line 9, after “children,” insert, “sexual grooming,”

(6) On page 10, line 23, after “courtroom,” insert, “except for the adult attendant,”; and

(7) On page 13, internal section 3520, designate the existing language as subsection (a), strike “or allow the child to sit on the adult attendant’s lap” on lines 11 to 12, and add subsections (b), (c), and (d) to read as follows:

“(b) Upon court approval, the child may be accompanied by an emotional support animal during the proceedings. The inclusion of a support animal as part of

the child's support system must adhere to the Court's established guidelines to maintain decorum.

(c) The Court shall take into consideration the specific needs and preferences of the child to ensure the child's comfort. The Court shall also ascertain the effectiveness of the support provided by the adult attendant or support animal.

(d) To document the child's statements and disposition, the child's testimony or deposition must be videotaped.”

Amendment No. 35-724/June 3, 2024/Revised/June 4, 2024/NS/Revised June 25, 2024