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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6640**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING HOME VISITS AND EVALUATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Under certain circumstances, this bill explicitly prohibits the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, from using telephonic, video, or other conferencing platforms when the department is required to visit or evaluate a home where a child in the department's care has been, or may be, placed.

The prohibition applies to visits or evaluations conducted to investigate a report of child abuse or neglect or to cases that involve a child who is (1) younger than age six; (2) age six or older and not enrolled in school (public or nonpublic); (3) nonverbal or cannot communicate adequately due to a disability; or (4) in foster care, a group home, or a residential treatment program.

The prohibition also applies after a case has been (1) referred to DCF's ongoing services unit and (2) deemed moderate or high risk or the department has identified a safety factor and instituted a safety plan after conducting a risk assessment.

The bill also prohibits the department from using these technologies to conduct visits or evaluations (1) after it has approved a family arrangement in the child's case or (2) if it conducted the immediately preceding visit or evaluation by telephonic, video, or other conferencing platform.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 2 (02/28/2023)