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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 6645

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN EVENTS BY INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT FACILITIES SERVING CHILDREN.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Starting January 1, 2024, this bill requires a Department of Children and Families (DCF)- or Department of Public Health (DPH)-licensed inpatient psychiatric or behavioral health treatment facility (“facility”) to notify the parent or guardian of each child it treats of a notice event within 24 hours after it occurred. Under the bill, a “notice event” includes events such as a child’s death by suicide or a disciplinary action against the facility. This notification must be made by telephone or, if the recipient’s email address is known, by electronic mail.

The bill also requires the facility, within seven days after the notice event, to (1) notify the parent or guardian by mail and (2) submit a written statement to DCF or DPH, as applicable, describing the notice event and confirming compliance with the notice requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

#### **NOTICE EVENT**

Under the bill, a “notice event” means the:

1. start or adjudication of an investigation by a facility, DCF, or DPH into circumstances or an event having, or potentially having, an adverse effect on the health, safety, or wellness of one or more children the facility treats;
2. start of a DCF or DPH disciplinary action against the facility;
3. suicide of a child the facility treats; or

4. arrest of the facility's employee who (a) during his or her duties has contact with one or more children the facility treats and (b) is charged with a felony or an offense or crime that is violent, sexual, or concerns a child.

#### **NOTICE TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

Under the bill, the parent or guardian notification must describe the notice event and any related actions the facility has taken or plans to take to ensure the health, safety, or wellness of the children the facility treats. The bill prohibits the inclusion of personally identifying information of anyone involved in the notice event.

#### **WRITTEN STATEMENT TO DCF OR DPH**

Under the bill, the facility's director, chief executive officer, or equivalent, or that person's designee must make the written statement to DCF or DPH, as applicable.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 0    (02/24/2023)