



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 28

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6645

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Facility" means an inpatient psychiatric or behavioral health
4 treatment facility licensed by the Department of Children and Families
5 or the Department of Public Health; and

6 (2) "Notice event" means the (A) commencement or adjudication of
7 an investigation by a facility, the Department of Children and Families
8 or the Department of Public Health into circumstances or an event
9 having or potentially having an adverse effect on the health, safety or
10 wellness of one or more children receiving treatment in such facility, (B)
11 commencement of a disciplinary action against such facility by the
12 Department of Children and Families or the Department of Public

13 Health, (C) death by suicide of a child receiving treatment in such
 14 facility, or (D) arrest of an employee of such facility, if such employee (i)
 15 has contact with one or more children receiving treatment in such
 16 facility in the course of such employee's duties, and (ii) is charged with
 17 a felony or an offense or crime that is violent or sexual in nature or
 18 concerns a child.

19 (b) On and after January 1, 2024, not later than twenty-four hours
 20 after a notice event in, or concerning, a facility that provides treatment
 21 to one or more children, such facility shall notify the parent or guardian
 22 of each child receiving treatment from such facility of such notice event.
 23 Such notification shall contain a description of such notice event and
 24 any related actions undertaken or planned by such facility to ensure the
 25 health, safety or wellness of the child or children receiving treatment in
 26 such facility. Such notification shall be made by telephone or, if such
 27 parent or guardian's electronic mail address is known, by electronic
 28 mail. Not later than seven days after such notice event, such facility shall
 29 provide notification of such event by mail to such parent or guardian.
 30 No personally identifying information concerning any individual
 31 involved in a notice event shall be included in any such notification.

32 (c) Not later than seven days after the occurrence of a notice event in
 33 any such facility, the director, chief executive officer or equivalent of
 34 such facility, or such individual's designee, shall submit a written
 35 statement to the Department of Children and Families or the
 36 Department of Public Health, as applicable, describing such notice event
 37 and confirming compliance with the requirements set forth in
 38 subsection (b) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section

KID *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires a Department of Children and Families (DCF) or a 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 by telephone or electronic mail, does not result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

The bill also requires facilities, 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. This provision is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

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)