



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 8**

February Session, 2024

Senate Bill No. 126

*Senate, March 12, 2024*

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. MAHER, C. of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING IN-PERSON HOME VISITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section, "safety plan" means any plan established by the Department of  
3 Children and Families to address or mitigate behaviors of a parent or  
4 guardian or conditions or circumstances in a home that may render such  
5 home unsafe for a child, by (1) identifying actions that have been or will  
6 be taken to address or mitigate such behaviors, conditions or  
7 circumstances, and (2) specifying the individuals or providers  
8 responsible for taking such actions, and timeframes for review of such  
9 actions by the department.

10 (b) When the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the  
11 commissioner's designee, conducts a visit to or evaluation of a home  
12 pursuant to a safety plan, such visit or evaluation shall be conducted in  
13 person if such safety plan indicates that a parent or guardian living in  
14 such home has a substance use disorder, as defined in section 20-74s of

15 the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

**KID**      *Joint Favorable*

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*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.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill, which codifies existing agency practice of conducting announced and unannounced in-person home visits, 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**

**SB 126**

***AN ACT CONCERNING IN-PERSON HOME VISITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner, or her designee, to do home visits or evaluations in person, rather than by teleconference, if the department’s safety plan (see below) indicates that a parent or guardian living in the home has a substance use disorder.

By law, “substance use disorder” is the recurrent use of alcohol or drugs leading to clinically and functionally significant impairment, including, health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.

Under the bill, a “safety plan” is a plan DCF makes to address or mitigate parent or guardian behaviors or conditions or circumstances in a home that may make the home unsafe for children. A safety plan specifies (1) actions that have been or will be taken to address or mitigate the unsafe behaviors, conditions, or circumstances; (2) who will do them, and (3) when the department will review the actions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (02/29/2024)