

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 623

Section	Bill #	Sponsor	Summary
210.160	SB623 Relating to guardians ad litem	Libla	Requires guardians ad litem (GALs) in a case involving an abused or neglected child to establish a relationship with the child and meet face-to-face in a private setting to observe the child and ascertain the child's wishes and needs. An initial interview shall take place within 7 business days following appointment and receipt of information pertaining to the custody and location of the child. The time period may be modified as specified but the GAL shall continue to maintain contact with the child for the duration of the appointment. The child's legal custodian shall cooperate with all requirements and the GAL shall attend, as appropriate and necessary, any and all family support team meetings involving the child.
210.145 210.160 210.566 211.135	HB 1414 Relating to the protection of children	Solon	Children's Division within the Department of Social Services shall complete a standard risk assessment within 72 hours of a report of abuse or neglect as part of its structured decision-making protocols. The division and the Office of the State Court Administrator shall develop a joint safety assessment tool before December 31, 2020 to replace the current risk assessment. The safety assessment tool must be implemented before January 1, 2022. The bill also prohibits the division from requiring foster parents to conduct or be present for supervised visits with a child in their care and states that the court shall only require a child to appear in court if necessary for making a decision and after considering all of the information provided by the division and family support team and the appropriateness of the courtroom environment and the hardship to the child and current guardians.
452.402	HB 2320 Relating to grandparent's visitation rights	Rehder	This bill clarifies the conditions that allow a court to grant visitation rights to grandparents. It allows grandparents in cases where there is a paternity action and the parents are not married to request a court to order visitation and it allows the court to determine the amount of time granted when it determines visitation is in the best interest of the child.