

HB 1414 -- PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Solon

This bill requires the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services to develop and use a child risk assessment for all reports of child abuse and neglect received by the division.

Currently, the division is required to support all children 12 years of age or older in state custody to attend any hearings pertaining to the child's placement, custody, or care, provided that the child is willing and able to attend such hearings, and that attending such hearings is in the best interests of the child. This bill modifies this requirement to all children in state custody only if the court orders that the child be present at such hearings.

The bill prohibits the division from requiring foster parents to conduct or be present for supervised visits with a child in their care.