

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7004

BILL NUMBER: SB 239

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 1, 2021

BILL AMENDED: Apr 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Remote Provision of Child and Family Services.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Brown L

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Heine

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill requires the Department of Child Services (DCS) to establish before October 1, 2021, policies and procedures to allow for child and family services to be provided remotely. It requires a child and family services provider to collaborate with the DCS in determining whether remote services are appropriate in a particular case, and specifies factors that the provider and the DCS may consider in making the determination. It also provides that a child and family services provider has the discretion to provide services remotely for up to 14 days after a request for consultation if providing services remotely is in the best interest of the child and family, unless: (1) a decision is reached on the use of remote services at a child and family team meeting less than 14 days after the request for consultation; or (2) the DCS communicates to the provider a preliminary determination as to the role of remote services pending the child and family team meeting.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill's provisions will likely have minimal impact on the Department of Child Services (DCS) as policies and procedures already exist to allow child and family services to be provided remotely. The DCS provides that the decision to use virtual contacts or face-to-face meetings should be made by the child and family team, taking into account all of the presenting risks and child safety.

The DCS allows for remote contacts such as teleconference, Skype, FaceTime, and telephone if the child, the family team (with written approval from the family case manager or probation officer), and the service provider has determined that remote contact is best. The DCS provides that phone and other remote services can be used as substitutes for face-to-face meetings and billed as though they were held in person. The

service provider must request documentation of approval to complete contacts remotely.

(Revised) Additional Information - The bill provides that the child and family service provider has the discretion to provide services remotely for up to 14 days after a consultation, if providing the remote services is in the best interests of the child and family. If service providers have fewer billable hours due to reduced in-person contact with children and families, the bill could potentially reduce state expenditures over time. However, the impact will likely be minimal as service providers will continue to meet with the child and family in person for the initial consultation and at least once a week as the DCS deems necessary

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Child Services.

Local Agencies Affected: Child service providers.

Information Sources: Indiana Department of Child Services website, https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/coronavirus_faq_community_based_services_archive_10-13-20.pdf.

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