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Overview

This bill creates a new felony crime for a parent or guardian who knowingly allows a female genital mutilation of a child and facilitates the temporary or permanent removal of the child from the home. It requires the commissioner of health to provide education and outreach to inform relevant communities about the crime and child custody provisions; allows the county to continue a child protection case without providing reasonable efforts to reunify the family when a parent or guardian pleads guilty to allowing the female genital mutilation; adds the crime of allowing a female genital mutilation to the list of crimes that constitute egregious harm; allows law enforcement officers to take the child into immediate custody when they believe a parent or guardian allowed, or is going to allow, the female genital mutilation to occur; and creates a new felony offense punishable by up to five years in prison for a parent or guardian who allows female genital mutilation. Each section is effective the day after final enactment.

Section

- 1 Female genital mutilation; education and outreach.** Adds an additional requirement to the commissioner of health's duty to provide education and outreach to communities that traditionally practice female genital mutilation to educate them about the changes in this bill, include laws that would allow a parent to lose custody of a child for allowing female genital mutilation.

Section

- 2** **Duty to ensure placement prevention and family reunification; reasonable efforts.**
Allows the county to continue with a child protection case, without providing reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the parent, when the parent has been convicted of allowing a female genital mutilation.
- 3** **Egregious harm.** Adds the crime of allowing a female genital mutilation by a parent or guardian of a child to the list of crimes that constitute an egregious harm. A parent having committed an egregious harm is one of a list of items on which the county can base a petition for the termination of parental rights, and in those circumstances the county can request, and the court can order, that the county does not have to provide reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the parent.
- 4** **Immediate custody.** Allows a police officer to take a child into custody when they believe that a parent or guardian of the child has or is going to allow a female genital mutilation to occur.
- 5** **Crime.** Creates a felony offense, punishable by up to five years in prison, for a parent, guardian, or other person legally responsible for the care or custody of a child who knowingly allows a female genital mutilation of that child.
- 6** **Custody of child.** Clarifies in chapter 609 that the parent or guardian of a child who is attempting or has allowed the genital mutilation of a child is an act that allows the child to be immediately removed from the parents care consistent with chapter 260C.
- 7** **Definitions.** Adds the crime of knowingly allowing female genital mutilation of a child to the definition of acts that constitute physical abuse for the purposes of the child protection chapter.