Bill Summary Comparison of

Health and Human Services

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| Senate File 1458, 2nd engrossment | Senate File 1458, 1st Unofficial Engrossment |
| Article 1: Children and Family Services | Article 7: Children and Family Services |

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| Article 1: Children and Family Services  |  | Article 7: Children and Family Services |
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| **Section 1 (119B.07)** modifies the calculation of authorized CCAP hours for students and employed persons, respectively.  Under certain circumstances, the participant’s activity schedule does not need to be verified. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 2 (119B.10, subd. 1)** modifies the calculation of authorized CCAP hours for students and employed persons, respectively.  Under certain circumstances, the participant’s activity schedule does not need to be verified. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 3 (119B.11, subd. 2a)** simplifies the recovery of CCAP overpayments.  | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 4 (119B.125, subd. 7)** establishes overpayment claim procedures with regard to failure to comply with child care attendance record requirements. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 5 (245C.03, subd. 10)** amends the background study chapter of law requiring the commissioner to conduct background studies on group residential housing (GRH) and supplementary services staff. | Identical | Sec. 1. Providers of group residential housing or supplementary services. Amends § 245C.03, by adding subd. 10. Requires the commissioner to conduct background studies on any individual required under the GRH statute. Makes this section effective July 1, 2016. |
|  | House only section. | Sec. 2. Child protection workers or social services staff having responsibility for child protective duties. Amends § 245C.03, by adding subd. 11. Requires the commissioner to conduct background studies of county staff who perform child protection duties. |
| **Section 6 (245C.10, subd. 11)** amends the background study chapter of law requiring the commissioner to recover $20 per GRH or supplementary services background study. | Identical | Sec. 3. Providers of group residential housing or supplementary services. Amends § 245C.10, by adding subd. 11. Requires the commissioner to recover the cost of background studies initiated by GRH or supplementary services providers through a fee of no more than $20 per study. Appropriates the background study fees to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies. Makes this section effective July 1, 2016. |
|  | House only section. | Sec. 4. Child protection workers or social services staff having responsibility for child protective duties. Amends § 245C.11, by adding subd. 12. Requires the commissioner to recover the cost of background studies performed on county child protection staff through a fee of no more than $20. |
| **Section 7 (256.01, subd. 12a)** establishes the Department of Human Services child fatality and near fatality review team, to assess the child protection services process, conduct on-site reviews, and identify necessary program improvements, including additional training and technical assistance needs of the local agency. | Identical | Sec. 5. Department of Human Services child fatality and near fatality review team. Amends § 256.01, by adding subd. 12a. Requires the commissioner to establish a child fatality and near child fatality review team to review fatalities and near fatalities due to maltreatment and those occurring in licensed facilities not due to natural causes. Provides that department staff shall lead the reviews. Requires summary reports of each review to be submitted to the state child mortality review panel. |
| **Section 8 (256.01, subd. 14c)** allows the commissioner to authorize grants to tribal child welfare agencies and urban Indian organizations for early intervention support and services to prevent child maltreatment for at-risk American Indian families. | Identical | Sec. 6. Early intervention support and services for at-risk American Indian families. Amends § 256.01, by adding subd. 14c. Paragraph (a) instructs the commissioner to authorize grants to provide early intervention and support services to prevent child maltreatment for at-risk Indian families.Paragraph (b) authorizes the commissioner to develop program eligibility criteria, delivery procedures, and reporting requirements for grantees. |
| **Section 9 (256.017, subd. 1)** adds group residential housing (GRH) to the Department of Human Services (DHS) compliance system, which permits the commissioner to supervise the administration of public assistance programs, enforce accurate distribution of benefits, and increase consistency in the delivery of public assistance programs. | Identical | Sec. 7. Authority and purpose. Amends § 256.017, subd. 1. Adds the GRH program to the DHS compliance system. |
| **Section 10 (256.741, subd. 1)** removes MinnesotaCare from the definition of public assistance for purposes of a child support referral to the county, and the assignment of child support rights to the state.  These modifications are to conform to the Affordable Care Act, consistent with changes to chapter 518A. | Similar, but Senate clarifies that plans exempt from the definition of public assistance are plans supplemented by federal premium tax credits or federal cost sharing reductions.House language refers to tax credits.Staff recommends Senate language. | Sec. 8. Definitions. Amends § 256.741, subd. 1. Modifies the definition of public assistance, by removing MinnesotaCare and plans supplemented by tax credits from the definition, for purposes of child support. |
| **Section 11 (256.741, subd 2.)** removes a reference to MinnesotaCare to conform to the Affordable Care Act. | Identical | Sec. 9. Assignment of support and maintenance rights. Amends § 256.741, subd. 2. Strikes MinnesotaCare from the definition of public assistance. |
|  | House only section. | Sec. 10. Child protection grants to address child welfare disparities. Adds § 256E.28. Subd. 1. Child welfare disparities grant program established. Allows the commissioner to award grants for development, implementation, and evaluation of activities to address racial disparities in the child welfare system. Provides a list of the issues that must be addressed. Subd. 2. State-community partnerships; plan. Requires the commissioner to consult with culturally based community organizations; various cultural councils, counties, tribal governments, and the legislative task force on child protection when developing the plan for awarding grants. Subd. 3. Measurable outcomes. Requires the commissioner to establish measurable outcomes before distributing any grants. Subd. 4. Process. Establishes the process for providing grants. Limits a county grantee to spending no more than three percent of the grant for administrative costs. Requires the commissioner to establish an administrative cost limit with all other grantees. Prohibits a grantee from using grant funds to supplant existing federal and state funds received for child protection purposes. Subd. 5. Grant program criteria. Provides that the commissioner shall award competitive grants to eligible applicants. Establishes the groups and entities that may be eligible for grants. Specifies the priorities that must be considered by the commissioner in awarding grants. Subd. 6. Evaluation. Requires the commissioner to conduct biennial evaluations of the programs operated by the grantees. Requires the commissioner to consult with the legislative task force on the protection of children and provide the biennial report to the task force and the legislature.  Subd. 7. American Indian child welfare projects. Requires the commissioner to award $75,000 to each tribe authorized to provide child welfare services under section 256.01, subd. 14b. An eligible tribe is not required to apply for these funds, and may apply for a competitive grant under this section. |
| **Section 12 (256E.345)** establishes the Healthy Eating, Here at Home grant program to provide incentives to low-income Minnesotans to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for purchases at Minnesota farmers’ markets.  This section also adds a subdivision requiring the commissioner to submit a waiver request to the federal government to allow SNAP participants to use the vouchers for healthy produce at grocery stores. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 13 (256E.35, subd. 2)** modifies the family assets for independence in Minnesota (FAIM) program by adding a definition for financial coach, and alphabetizing definitions. | Identical | Sec. 11. Definitions. Amends § 256E.35, subd. 2. Modifies definitions under the FAIM program by moving definitions within the definitions section and adding a definition for “financial coach.” |
| **Section 14 (256E.35, subd. 4a)** modifies the FAIM program, by specifying the duties of a financial coach.  | Identical, except the House limits the services provided by the financial coach to those which can be provided “within available appropriations.”  | Sec. 12. Financial coaching. Amends § 256E.35, subd. 4a. Lists services financial coaches must provide to FAIM program participants. |
| **Section 15 (256I.03, subd. 3)** amends the definition of GRH by striking obsolete language and updating references to the new staffing and background study requirements. | Identical | Sec. 13. Group residential housing. Amends § 256I.03, subd. 3. Modifies the definition of “group residential housing.” |
| **Section 16 (256I.03, subd. 7)** modifies the definition of “countable income” to clarify what is counted as income under the GRH program.  | Identical | Sec. 14. Countable income. Amends § 256I.03, subd. 7. Modifies the definition of “countable income.” |
| **Section 17 (256I.03, subd. 9)** defines the term “direct contact.”  | Identical, except the Senate includes “support” in the definition. | Sec. 15. Direct contact. Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 9. Adds a definition of “direct contact.” |
| **Section 18 (256I.03, subd. 10)** defines the term “habitability inspection.” | Identical | Sec. 16. Habitability inspection. Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 10. Adds a definition of “habitability inspection.” |
| **Section 19 (256I.03, subd. 11)** defines the term “long-term homelessness.” | Identical | Sec. 17. Long-term homelessness. Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 11. Adds a definition of “long-term homelessness.” |
| **Section 20 (256I.03, subd. 12)** defines the term “professional statement of need.” | Senate uses the term “professional statement of need” and the House uses the term “professional certification,” otherwise, the definitions are identical. | Sec. 18. Professional certification. Amends § 256I.03, subd. 12. Adds a definition of “professional certification.” |
| **Section 21 (256I.03, subd. 13)** defines the term “prospective budgeting.” | Identical | Sec. 19. Prospective budgeting. Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 13. Adds a definition of “prospective budgeting.” |
| **Section 22 (256I.03, subd. 14)** defines the term “qualified professional.” | Identical | Sec. 20. Qualified professional. Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 14. Adds a definition of “qualified professional.” |
| **Section 23 (256I.03, subd. 15)** defines the term “supportive housing.” | Identical | Sec. 21. Supportive housing. Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 15. Adds a definition of “supportive housing.” |
| **Section 24 (256I.04, subd. 1)** clarifies eligibility for the GRH program.**Subdivision 1a** provides that the county cannot approve a payment in excess of the MSA equivalent payment unless the individual has a professional statement of need, as defined in this chapter. Also, in order to be eligible for supplementary service payments, providers must enroll in the provider enrollment system, which is part of the MMIS system.**Subdivision 2a** exempts supportive housing establishments for individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness that meet certain requirements from the licensure requirements, and imposes staffing requirements for direct staff on GRH providers.**Subdivision 2b** clarifies that agreements between agencies and providers must be in writing, and specifies the minimum requirements that the provider must verify in the agreement.  Agreements may be terminated with or without cause by the commissioner, agency, or provider with two calendar months prior notice.**Subdivision 2c** imposes background study requirementson GRH and supplementary services staff.**Subdivision 2d** provides that the GRH or supplementary services must be provided to the satisfaction of the commissioner, and the commissioner has the right to suspend or terminate the agreement immediately if the health or welfare of the recipients is endangered, or when the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that the provider has breached a material term of the agreement.**Subdivision 2e** clarifies staffing and background study requirements when there are multiple licenses.**Subdivision 2f** specifies the minimum service requirements for licensed or registered settings, which include food preparation, housekeeping, and maintenance of the building.**Subdivision 2g** is existing language that was moved from a previous subdivision. | Subd. 1 is identical.Subd. 1a. Senate uses the term “professional statement of need” and the House uses the term “professional certification,” otherwise, this subdivision is identical.Subd. 2a. Technical punctuation difference in paragraph (a), staff recommend the Senate.In paragraph (d), technical differences.The remainder of the subdivision is identical.Subd. 2b. In paragraph (a), the Senate includes supplementary services providers and the House does not. Paragraphs (b) and (c) are identical.Subd. 2c to 4. Identical | Sec. 22. Eligibility for Group Residential Housing Payment. Amends § 256I.04.  Subd. 1. Individual eligibility requirements. Modifies individual eligibility requirements under the GRH program. Subd. 1a. County approval. Modifies the county approval process for supplementary service payments.Subd. 2a. License required; staffing qualifications. Modifies the requirements that must be met for a county to enter into an agreement with an establishment to provide GRH. Beginning July 1, 2016, prohibits agencies from having an agreement with a GRH or supplementary services provider unless all staff members who have direct contact with recipients meet certain requirements.Subd. 2b. Group residential housing agreements. Requires agreements between agencies and GRH providers to be in writing on a form developed and approved by the commissioner. Requires providers to verify certain minimum requirements in the agreement.Subd. 2c. Background study requirements. Effective July 1, 2016, requires GRH or supplementary service providers to initiate background studies on certain individuals. Requires GRH or supplementary services providers to maintain compliance with all requirements established for entities initiating background studies. Effective July 1, 2017, requires GRH or supplementary services providers to demonstrate that all individuals required to have a background study have received a certain notice.Subd. 2d. Conditions of payment; commissioner’s right to suspend or terminate agreement. Requires GRH or supplementary services to be provided to the satisfaction of the commissioner and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. Prohibits providers from receiving payment for services for housing found by the commissioner to be performed or provided in violation of federal, state, or local law, ordinance, rule, or regulation. Gives the commissioner the authority to suspend or terminate the agreement immediately when the commissioner determines the health or welfare of the housing or service recipients is endangered, or when the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that the provider has breached a material term of the agreement. Requires the commissioner to provide the provider with a written notice of a curable material breach of the agreement and allow ten days to cure the breach.Subd. 2e. Providers holding health or human services licenses. Specifies the minimum staff qualifications and background study requirements that must be met when the GRH or supplementary service staff are operating under certain licenses.Subd. 2f. Required services. Lists required services under the GRH program.Subd. 2g. Crisis shelters. States that secure crisis shelters for battered women and their children designated by the Minnesota Department of Corrections are not group residences under the GRH statute. (This language was moved from another location within this section.)Subd. 3. Moratorium on development of GRH beds. Makes technical and conforming changes.Subd. 4. Rental assistance. Removes obsolete language.Effective date. Makes subdivision 1, paragraph (b), effective September 1, 2015.  |
| **Section 25 (256I.05, subd. 1c)** changes the term “county” to “agency” because the definition of “agency” includes tribes. | Senate uses the term “professional statement of need” and the House uses the term “professional certification,” otherwise, this subdivision is identical. | Sec. 23. Rate increases. Amends § 256I.05, subd. 1c. Makes technical and conforming changes. |
| **Section 26 (256I.05, subd. 1g)** allows an agency to negotiate a supplemental services rate for individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness and who live in a supportive housing establishment. | Identical | Sec. 24. Supplementary service rate for certain facilities. Amends § 256I.05, subd. 1g. Modifies language related to providing a supplementary service rate for facilities providing services to homeless individuals. |
| **Section 27 (256I.06, subd. 2)** strikes references to countable income, to conform to changes in section 256I.06, subdivision 8, related to prospective budgeting. | Identical | Sec. 25. Time of payment. Amends § 256I.06, subd. 2. Removes language limiting county agencies to only providing advance GRH payments for individuals who do not expect to receive countable earned income during the month for which payment is made and requiring payment for individuals with countable earned income to be made only after a household report form is received. Makes this section effective April 1, 2016. |
| **Section 28 (256I.06, subd. 6)** requires recipients to report changes in income every six months, instead of every month under current law. | Identical | Sec. 26. Reports. Amends § 256I.06, subd. 6. Modifies reporting requirements for recipients with countable earned income by requiring recipients with countable earned income to complete a household report form at least once every six months rather than monthly. Makes this section effective April 1, 2016. |
| **Section 29 (256I.06, subd. 7)** makes technical conforming changes. | Identical | Sec. 27. Determination of rates. Amends § 256I.06, subd. 7. Makes technical and conforming changes. |
| **Section 30 (256I.06, subd. 8)** provides that for an individual with earned income, prospective budgeting must be used to determine the individual’s payment for the following six-month period.  An increase in income must not affect eligibility until the month following the reporting month.  A decrease in income is effective the first day of the month after the decrease. | Identical | Sec. 28. Amount of GRH payment. Amends § 256I.06, subd. 8. Requires prospective budgeting to be used to determine the amount of the GRH payment for individuals with earned income. Prohibits an increase in income from affecting an individual’s eligibility or payment amount until the month following the reporting month. Requires a decrease in income to be effective the first day of the month after the month in which the decrease is reported. Makes this section effective April 1, 2016. |
| **Section 31 (256J.24, subd. 5)** modifies the Minnesota Family Investment Plan transitional standard, by increasing the MFIP cash grant by $100. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 32 (256J.24, subd. 5a)** adds language requiring that the food portion of the MFIP transitional standard comply with federal waivers.  | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 33 (256K.45, Subd. 1a)** amends the Homeless Youth Act by modifying the definition of the terms “homeless youth” and "youth at risk of homelessness" by changing eligibility from youth 21 years of age or younger, to youth 24 years of age or younger.  This is consistent with the federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. | Identical | Sec. 29. Definitions. Amends § 256K.45. Modifies the definitions of “homeless youth” and “youth at risk of homelessness” under the Homeless Youth Act to increase the age limit from age 21 to age 24. |
| **Section 34 (256K.45, subd. 6)** adds language requiring the commissioner to provide outreach, technical assistance, and program development to increase capacity to better meet the needs of homeless youth statewide. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 35 (256M.41)** establishes the child protection grant allocation to address county staffing. The county grant amount is based on the formula in **subdivision 1**, and **subdivision 2** prohibits the county from using grant funds to supplant current child protection county expenditures. **Subdivision 3** withholds a total of 20 percent of the grant until the county meets certain performance outcomes. | Senate headnote indicates that the grant allocation is to address county staffing; House does not.House and Senate have different distribution formulas:Senate distributes 50 percent of allocation based on the child population residing in the county. House distributes 25 percent based on the number of screened out reports of child maltreatment in the county.Both bodies distribute 25 percent of the allocation based on the number of screened in reports in the countySenate distributes 25 percent of the allocation based on the number of open child protection case management cases. House distributes 50 percent based on the same criteria.Senate establishes a minimum allocation to each county of $75,000.The remainder of the section is identical. | Sec. 30. Child protection grant allocation. Creates § 256M.41. Subd. 1. Formula for county staffing funds. Establishes the formula for allocation of funds to county boards. Subd. 2. Prohibition on supplanting existing funds. Provides that counties must not use grant funds to supplant current county expenditures for child protection staffing or child protection services, but must use the funds to increase staff and expand services. Subd. 3. Payments based on performance. Requires 80 percent of a county’s allocation to be paid on or before July 10 of each year. An additional 10 percent of the allocation is based on meeting certain performance standards related to timely contact with child victims, and an additional 10 percent of the allocation is based on meeting certain performance standards related to timely and consistent caseworker contact with children in out of home placement or under supervision in their homes. |
| **Section 36 (256M.42)** establishes the child protection grant allocation for county services. The grant formula is under **subdivision 1**, and **subdivision 2** prohibits supplantation of existing funds. **Subdivision 3** specifies eligible services**. Subdivision 4** provides $75,000 to tribes to address child protection staffing and services. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 37 (256N.22, subd. 9)** modifies language to comply with the federal requirement related successor guardians for children in a custody arrangement with a relative. | Identical | Sec. 31. Death or incapacity of relative custodian or modification of custody. Amends § 256N.22, subd. 9. Clarifies the process of modifying custody when a relative custodian dies or becomes incapacitated or custody is removed from the relative custodian. These changes are made to comply with changes to federal law on successor guardians for families receiving kinship assistance. |
| **Section 38 (256N.22, subd. 10)** modifies language to comply with the federal requirement related successor guardians for children in a custody arrangement with a relative. | Identical | Sec. 32. Assigning a successor relative custodian for a child’s Northstar kinship assistance. Amends § 256N.22, subd. 10. Paragraph (a) states that a kinship assistance benefit agreement remains valid if a successor is named in the benefit agreement. Allows the benefit to be paid even if the successor is not a relative.Paragraph (b) lists the requirements the successor must meet in order to receive kinship assistance benefits.Paragraph (c) allows temporary approval of kinship assistance payments until the successor completes all of the requirements in paragraph (b).Paragraph (d) allows kinship assistance benefits to be paid to a guardian or custodian appointed by the court upon the death of the relative custodian when no successor guardian has been named in the kinship assistance agreement. Paragraph (e) allows kinship assistance benefits to be approved for a maximum of six months following the death or incapacity of the relative custodian. Provides that if the court has not appointed a permanent legal guardian for the child in that time, the kinship assistance benefits end.Paragraph (f) provides that if benefits are paid under paragraphs (d) and (e), the benefits must be paid from funds other than federal IV-E funds.  |
| **Section 39 (256N.24, subd. 4)** amends the provision related to extraordinary levels of care for children who have significant physical or mental health care needs, to include “foster care residence setting” to the settings that are eligible for difficulty of care supplemental rate payments. | Identical | Sec. 33. Extraordinary levels. Amends § 256N.24, subd. 4. Adds that enhanced difficulty of care payments can be made for children who live in a foster residence settings. Current law allows these payments when a child lives in a family foster home or lives with an adoptive parent or relative custodian. |
| **Section 40 (256N.25, subd. 1)** modifies language to comply with the federal requirement related successor guardians for children in a custody arrangement with a relative. | Identical | Sec. 34. Agreement; Northstar kinship assistance; adoption assistance. Amends § 256N.25, subd. 1. Adds a cross-reference to clarify that renegotiation of kinship assistance or adoption assistance agreements must be conducted with the caregivers.Adds that successor relative custodians must be named in the kinship assistance agreement, when applicable. Provides that a successor custodian may be added or changed when the agreement is renegotiated. |
| **Section 41 (256N.27, subd. 2)** strikes language giving the commissioner authority to transfer funds into the Northstar Care for Children account if a deficit occurs. | Identical | Sec. 35. State share. Amends § 256N.27, subd. 2. Strikes a sentence allowing the commissioner to transfer funds in case of deficit. By striking this sentence, Northstar Care becomes a forecasted program. |
| **Sections 42 to 46 (257.0755, subd. 1, 257.0755, subd. 2, 257.0761, subd. 1, 257.0766, subd. 1, 257.0769, subd. 1)** modify the ombudsperson for families by eliminating the community-specific boards, establishing the Office of the Ombudsperson under DHS, and requiring that the ombudsperson for each community be appointed by the Governor. | Senate only sections. |  |
| **Section 47 (257.75, subd. 3)** amends the law governing the effect of a recognition of parentage. New language refers to awards of temporary custody or parenting time. **Section 518.131**, which applies to marriage dissolutions, would apply to awards of temporary or permanent custody or parenting time based on a recognition of parentage. | Identical, except Senate adds an effective date (March 1, 2016). | Sec. 36. Effect of recognition. Amends § 257.75, subd. 3. Makes structural changes to this subdivision. Clarifies that signing a recognition of parentage does not establish the father’s custody or parenting time unless an action is commenced under chapter 518. But by signing a recognition of parentage, the father has a basis for bring an action to determine custody and parenting time and establishing a child support obligation, among other things. |
| **Sections 48 (257.75, subd. 5)** modifies recognition of parentage form requirements. The limitations of the recognition for purposes of exercising and enforcing custody or parenting time must be clear and understandable. Notification requirements with respect to the effect of a recognition on custody and parenting time are expanded, along with support obligations and other expenses for which the parent may be liable. | Identical, except Senate adds an effective date (March 1, 2016). | Sec. 37. Recognition form. Amends § 257.75, subd. 5. Lists the specific information that must be included in the recognition of parentage form and requires verification that the parents have seen the educational materials contained on the form and received oral notice of the information on the form. |
| **Section 49 (259A.75)** modifies the reimbursement of tribal contracted adoption placement.  This section reallocates funds for tribal customary adoptions, and requires the commissioner to enter into grant contracts with Minnesota tribal social services agencies to provide child-specific recruitment and adoption placement services for Indian children. | Identical | Sec. 38. Reimbursement of certain agency costs; purchase of service contracts and tribal customary adoptions. Amends § 259A.75. Makes changes to conform with newly created subdivision 7 on tribal customary adoptions. Adds subdivision 7 requiring the commissioner to enter into grant contracts with tribal social services agencies to provide recruitment and adoption placement for Indian children under the jurisdiction of tribal courts. |
| **Section 50 (260C.007, subd. 27)** amends the definition of the term “relative.” | Identical | Sec. 39. Relative. Amends § 260C.007, subd. 27. Adds a relative includes the legal parent, guardian, or custodian of the child’s siblings. This change is made to allow children to maintain contact with siblings who have been separated and who have only one parent in common and to broaden possible placement options for children who may be placed outside of the home. |
| **Section 51 (260C.007, subd. 32)** amends the definition of the term “sibling.” | Identical | Sec. 40. Sibling. Amends § 260C.007, subd. 32. To the definition of “sibling,” adds that a sibling includes an individual who would have been considered a sibling but for termination of parental rights of one or both parents, suspension of parental rights under tribal code, or other disruption of parental rights, such as death of a parent. This change is made to allow children to maintain contact with siblings who have been separated. |
| **Section 52 (260C.203)** modifies independent living plans so youth in foster care may start the plan at age 14 instead of age 16, updates a cross-reference, and requires the responsible agency to help the child obtain a tribal enrollment identification card prior to leaving foster care.  | Identical | Sec. 41. Administrative or court review of placements. Amends § 260C.203. Lowers the age at which a child who is in an out-of-home placement must have an independent living plan developed. Current law requires an independent living plan to be developed for children 16 and older. This amendment requires a plan for children 14 and older. Adds that Indian children must be provided with their tribal enrollment identification card when preparing for independent living. |
| **Section 53 (260C.212, subd. 1)** allows a child in foster care who is 14 years old or older to include two additional individuals on the team preparing the child’s out-of-home placement plan, adds language to reinforce transfer of custody to a relative, if possible, and requires that the independent living plan include objectives that allow for regular opportunities to engage in age appropriate activities typical for the child’s age group. | Identical | Sec. 42. Out-of-home placement plan. Amends § 260C.212, subd. 1. Allows a child who is 14 or older to designate two other individuals to help prepare the child’s out-of-home placement plan.Requires the out-of-home placement plan to document steps to finalize a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative as the permanency plan for a child who cannot be returned to the care of either parent. Provides a list of issues that must be addressed in the plan.Provides that an independent living plan should identify opportunities for the child to engage in activities appropriate for the child’s age group.  |
| **Section 54 (260C.212, subd. 13)** is a new subdivision related to protecting missing and runaway children and youth at risk of sex trafficking. Imposes duties on the local social services agency to report and locate a missing child, determine the primary factors that contributed to the child running away, what the child experienced while absent from foster care, and appropriate services for the child. | Identical | Sec. 43. Protecting missing and runaway children and youth at risk of sex trafficking. Amends § 260C.212, by adding subd. 13. Paragraph (a) requires local social services agencies to begin immediate efforts to locate any child who is missing from foster care.Paragraph (b) requires the local social services agency to report information on the missing child immediately to local law enforcement and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited children. For purposes of this paragraph, “immediately” means within 24 hours.Paragraph (c) prohibits the agency from discharging a missing child from foster care or closing the case until diligent efforts to locate the child have been exhausted and the court terminates the agency’s jurisdiction.Paragraph (d) requires the agency to determine the factors that contributed to the child running away or being absent from care.Paragraph (e) requires the agency to evaluate the child to determine happened to the child while absent from care and whether the child may have been a sex trafficking victim.Paragraph (f) instructs the agency to notify law enforcement if there is cause to believe a child is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim.Paragraph (g) requires the agency to determine appropriate services for any child for whom the agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision when the agency believes the child is, or is at risk of being, a sex trafficking victim. |
| **Section 55 (260C.212, subd. 14)** is a new subdivision requiring that child-placing agencies support a foster child’s emotional and developmental growth by permitting the child to participate in age and developmentally appropriate extracurricular activities. | Identical, except for different headnotes. Senate headnote is “Support age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate activities for foster children.” House headnote is “Support normalcy for foster children.” | Sec. 44. Support normalcy for foster children. Amends § 260C.212, by adding subd. 14. Requires social services agencies and child-placing agencies to permit children to participate in activities or events suitable for children of the same age. Instructs foster parents and facility staff to allow children to participate in extracurricular, social, or cultural activities typical for the child’s age. |
| **Section 56 (260C.221)** expands who is included in a relative search when a child is placed out of the home. | Senate only section |  |
| **Section 57** **(260C.331, subd. 1)** updates cross-references. | Identical | Sec. 45. Care, examination, or treatment. Amends § 260C.331, subd. 1. Corrects a cross-reference. |
| **Section 58 (260C.451, subd. 2)** updates cross-references. | Identical | Sec. 46. Independent living plan. Amends § 260C.451, subd. 2. Corrects a cross-reference. |
| **Section 59** **(260C.451, subd. 6)** updates cross-references. | Identical | Sec. 47. Reentering foster care and accessing services after age 18. Amends § 260C.451, subd. 6. Corrects a cross-reference. |
| **Section 60 (260C.515, subd. 5)** modifies the provision relating to ordering the child into permanent custody of the responsible social services agency.  Under current law, the court may order a child age 12 or older into long-term foster care.  This section changes the age to 16, and requires that the child be asked about his or her desired permanency outcome. | Identical new language, but Senate strikes clause (2). The stricken clause allows a child to be placed in the permanent custody of the agency if the child has a sibling who is at least 16 years old, the siblings have a significant relationship, and are in the same foster home.The Senate language conforms to federal law. | Sec. 48. Permanent custody to agency. Amends § 260C. 515, subd. 5. Requires consultation with a child age 16 and older before the court orders the child to be placed in the permanent custody of a social services agency. |
| **Section 61 (260C.521, subd. 1)** requires that the child be asked about his or her desired permanency outcome as part of the agency’s reasonable efforts to finalize a permanent plan for the child. | Identical | Sec. 49. Child in permanent custody of responsible social services agency. Amends § 260C.521, subd. 1. Requires consultation with a child age 16 and older before the court orders the child to be placed in the permanent custody of a social services agency. |
| **Section 62 (260C.521, subd. 2)** allows an order for permanent legal and physical custody to be modified to name a successor guardian as the custodian if the original relative is incapacitated or dies. | Senate provides clear language that the kinship agreement is one negotiated under Northstar Care for Children. House does not.Different statutory cross reference to kinship agreements. Senate cross reference is correct.Staff recommends Senate language. | Sec. 50. Modifying order of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative. Amends § 260C.521, subd. 2. Allows the successor custodian named in the kinship placement agreement to file a request to modify the order for permanent and legal custody to name the successor custodian as the permanent physical and legal custodian of the child. Instructs the court to modify the order if modification is in the child’s best interest and upon review of the background study of the successor custodian. |
| **Section 63 (260C.607, subd. 4)** makes changes consistent with section 260C.203, changing the age of the child from 16 to 14. | Identical | Sec. 51. Content of review. Amends § 260C.607, subd. 4. Requires the court to review the independent living plan for youth who are age 14 and older. Updates a cross-reference. |
| **Section 64 (290.0671, subd. 6)** strikes language allowing the transfer of TANF funds to the commissioner of revenue for the Minnesota working family credit. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 65 (518A.26, subd. 14)** amends the definition of “obligor” for purposes of establishing child support obligations by striking a presumption that a person who has primary physical custody of the child is not an obligor. | Identical, except Senate adds an effective date (March 1, 2016). | Sec. 52. Obligor. Amends § 518A.26, subd. 14. Strikes the presumption that the parent who has primary physical custody is not an obligor. |
| **Section 66 (518A.32, subd. 2)** modifies one of the methods for determining potential income. The amount of income a parent could earn working full-time at 150 percent of the current federal or state minimum wage is changed to working 30 hours per week at 100 percent. | Identical, except Senate adds an effective date (March 1, 2016). | Sec. 53. Methods. Amends § 518A.32, subd. 2. For purposes of determining potential income when calculating child support, makes a change from the amount a parent could earn working full time at 150 percent of minimum wage to the amount a parent could earn working 30 hours per week at 100 percent of the minimum wage. This change is being made to conform with changes in federal law. |
| **Section 67 (518A.39, subd. 1)** allows a child support order to be modified for medical support. | Identical, except Senate adds an effective date (January 1, 2016). | Sec. 54. Authority. Amends § 518A.39, subd. 1. Clarifies that the court has the authority modify medical support orders. |
| **Section 68 (518A.39, subd. 8)** is a new subdivision allowing for a medical support-only modification of a support order. | Identical, except Senate adds an effective date (January 1, 2016). | Sec. 55. Medical support only modification. Amends § 518A.39, by adding subd. 8. Paragraph (a) establishes the basis for modification of the medical support terms of a child support order.Paragraph (b) provides that the terms of a medical support modification are retroactive only from the date of service of the notice on the responding party and the public authority.Paragraph (c) states that an evidentiary hearing is not needed for modifications under this subdivision.Paragraph (d) identifies the statutes governing attorney fees for motions under this subdivision.Paragraph (e) provides that the parental income for purposes of child support in the original order shall be used to determine the modified medial support order. |
| **Section 69 (518A.41, subd. 1)** modifies the definition of “public coverage,” with regard to health care benefits by striking a reference to MinnesotaCare. | Similar, but Senate clarifies that plans exempt from the definition of public assistance are health plans supplemented by federal premium tax credits or federal cost sharing reductions.Staff recommends Senate language. | Sec. 56. Definitions. Amends § 518A.41, subd. 1. Changes the definition of “public coverage.” Provides that public coverage does not include MinnesotaCare or federally subsidized medical plans. |
| **Section 70 (518A.41, subd. 3)** amends the statute in which the court determines if a parent has appropriate health coverage for the child. This section adds language providing that health plans meeting the definition of minimum essential coverage under the ACA meet the definition of comprehensive medical coverage. | Identical | Sec. 57. Determining the appropriate health care coverage. Amends § 518A.41, subd. 3. Adds that health care coverage is determined comprehensive if it meets the minimum essential coverage definition in the ACA. |
| **Section 71 (518A.41, subd. 4)** modifies what a court may order related to a parent’s contribution for health care coverage in a child support case, if neither parent has appropriate health care coverage. | Identical, except Senate includes an effective date (August 1, 2015). | Sec. 58. Ordering health care coverage. Amends § 518A.41, subd. 4. Establishes the parental contribution for health care coverage when neither parent has appropriate health care coverage available. |
| **Section 72 (518A.41, subd. 14)** requires the public authority to assist with modifying a medical support order. | Identical, except Senate includes an effective date (January 1, 2016). | Sec. 59. Child support enforcement services. Amends § 519A.41, subd. 14. Clarifies that the public authority, in addition to establishing medical support orders, must enforce and modify medical support orders when a party applies for services or when a joint child receives public assistance. |
| **Section 73 (518A.41, subd. 15)** amends the remedies available for the enforcement of a child support order.  New language provides that failure to provide court-ordered coverage or provide medical support is a basis for a modification, unless it meets a presumption. | Identical, except Senate includes an effective date (January 1, 2016). | Sec. 60. Enforcement. Amends § 518A.41, subd. 15. Establishes the basis for modifying a medical support order when a party fails to carry court ordered coverage or provide other medical support. |
| **Section 74 (518A.43, subd. 1a)** authorizes a court to elect not to order a party who has between 10 and 45 percent parenting time to pay basic support if there is such a significant disparity of income between the parties that an order directing payment would be detrimental to the joint child. | Identical, except Senate includes an effective date (March 1, 2016). | Sec. 61. Income disparity between parties. Amends § 518A.43, by adding subd. 1a. Allows the court not to order a party who has between ten and 45 percent parenting time to pay basic support when there is a significant disparity in income and the order to pay support would be detrimental to the child. |
| **Section 75 (518A.46, subd. 3)** strikes reference to MinnesotaCare as a public assistance program. | Identical | Sec. 62. Contents of pleadings. Amends § 518A.46, subd. 3. Strikes MinnesotaCare as a form of public assistance for purposes of child support determinations. |
| **Section 76 (518A.46, subd. 3a)** specifies the contents of pleadings for medical support modifications. | Identical, except Senate includes an effective date (January 1, 2016). | Sec. 63. Contents of pleadings for medical support modifications. Amends § 518A.46, by adding subd. 3a. Paragraph (a) lists the information that must be included in the pleadings when requesting a modification of medical support.Paragraph (b) lists the information that must be provided to the court and the parties for cases scheduled in the expedited process. |
| **Section 77 (518A.51)** discontinues the $25 application fee for child support IV-D services. Federal conformity part of this section strikes reference to MinnesotaCare. | Identical, except Senate includes an effective date of July 1, 2016, except the amendment striking MinnesotaCare is effective July 1, 2015. | Sec. 64. Fees for IV-D services. Amends § 518A.51. Removes the $25 application fee for individuals applying for child support and maintenance collection services. |
| **Section 78 (518A.53, subd. 1)** modifies the definition of "arrears." | Identical to H.F. No. 497, section 1 | (HF 497(Scott), 2nd reading on March 10, 2015) |
| **Section 79 (518A.53, subd. 4)** allows the court to order a specific monthly payback amount for child support arrears, and strikes a reference to the $25 application fee. | Identical to H.F. No. 497, section 2, except Senate includes an effective date of July 1, 2016.  | Sec. 65. Collection services. Amends § 518A.53. Strikes a cross-reference to the application fee for IV-D services. (H.F. No. 497 (Scott), 2nd reading on March 10, 2015) |
| **Section 80 (518A.53, subd. 10)** allows the court to order a specific monthly payback amount for child support arrears. | Identical to H.F. No. 497, section 3 | **(HF 497(Scott), 2nd reading)** |
| **Section 81 (518A.60)** is a modification to conform to changes made in **section 518A.53, subd. 10**. | Identical to H.F. No. 497, section 4 | (HF 497(Scott), 2nd reading) |
| **Section 82 (518A.685)** requires the public authority to report to consumer reporting agencies when an obligor is in arrears for three consecutive months.  | Similar, but in paragraph (a), Senate clarifies that an obligor must be in arrears for three consecutive months. House does not.Paragraph (b), clause (1), House uses the term “consumer reporting agency,” and Senate uses the term “consumer agency.” Paragraph (b), clause (2), House requires the public authority to provide notice to an obligor “at least” 30 days prior to a report being made to a credit reporting agency. Senate requires 30 days prior notice.Senate includes an effective date of July 1, 2016. | Sec. 66. Consumer reporting agency; reporting arrears. Amends § 518A.685. Requires the public authority to report arrears information to a consumer reporting agency when an obligor is in arrears in an amount greater than three times the monthly court ordered support obligation. Provides that before making a report, the public authority must mail the obligor written notice at least 30 days prior to making the report. Allows the obligor, within 21 days of receipt of the notice, to pay the arrears in full or request an administrative review. If the public authority has reported the obligor to a consumer reporting agency and determines the obligor has paid arrears in full or is paying current monthly support plus the required arrearage payment, the public authority must report this to the consumer reporting agency. Requires the public authority to make monthly reports to the consumer reporting agency if the authority has reported arrearage information under this section. |
| **Section 83 (518C.802,)** amends the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), to comply to the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. | Identical.  | Sec. 67. Condition of rendition. Amends § 518C.802. Strikes obsolete language from the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act. |
| **Section 84 (626.556, subd. 1)** modifies the maltreatment of minors public policy statement, by providing that the health and safety of the children must be of paramount concern, and intervention and prevention must address immediate concerns for child safety. | Identical except for technical difference and structural difference in paragraph (b) clause (4).Staff recommends Senate language. | Sec. 68. Public policy. Amends § 626.556, subd. 1, as amended by Laws 2015, ch. 4, § 1. Modifies the public policy statement to reflect that when reports alleging child abuse or neglect are received, the health and safety of the children are the primary consideration. (Current law focuses on engaging the family’s protective capabilities while addressing child safety and risk.)Strikes the requirement that a family assessment shall be the preferred response for all reports except those alleging substantial child endangerment, instead providing that a family assessment shall be conducted when there is no alleged substantial child endangerment.Clarifies that all reports alleging sexual abuse and substantial child endangerment must be handled as investigations and not accepted as family assessment.Makes technical changes to the structure of this subdivision. |
| **Section 85 (626.556, subd. 2)** amends the definition of the following terms:  "family assessment," "investigation," "substantial child endangerment," "physical abuse," and "report."  The term “sexual abuse” is added throughout section 626.556 because the term was imbedded in the definition of “substantial child endangerment” and also defined separately. To clarify terms, the definition of “substantial child endangerment” was modified to delete the “sexual abuse” reference, resulting in both terms being defined and referenced in this section of law. | In paragraphs (a) and (b), Senate adds the term “sexual abuse” due to the modification made in paragraph (c). In paragraph (c), Senate removes sexual abuse from the definition of “substantial child endangerment” because the term is defined separately. House does not make this change.In paragraph (g), Senate makes a change to the definition of physical abuse so that striking a child under age four in the head or face is considered physical abuse. House leaves the age at under age one.In paragraph (h), Senate modifies the definition of “report” to clarify the components of a report of child maltreatment. | Sec. 69. Definitions. Amends § 626.556, subd. 2. Amends paragraph (g), the definition of physical abuse. Clarifies that certain actions are not considered reasonable and moderate physical discipline. (Current law provides that these actions are not reasonable or moderate physical discipline when done in anger or without regard to the safety of the child. This is the language that was stricken.) |
| **Section 86 (626.556, subd. 3)** amends the headnote to reflect the content of the subdivision, strikes language that is moved to **626.556, subd. 7 and 10**, and adds a paragraph referencing the moved language regarding mandatory notification between law enforcement and local welfare agency. | Houses adds language to state that all reports, screened in and screened out, must be reported to law enforcement.Senate strikes language on mandatory cross reporting between law enforcement and the local welfare agency from this subdivision and consolidates the requirement in section 626.556, subdivision 10 (Senate section 90 of this comparison). | Sec. 70. Persons mandated to report. Amends § 626.556, subd. 3. Clarifies that all reports received by the local welfare agency must be referred to law enforcement. This includes reports that are not accepted for investigation or assessment. |
| **Section 87 (626.556, subd. 6a)** updates a cross-reference. | Both bodies update cross-references, but in different ways. Senate change reflects change in cross reporting requirements (this requirement was moved to subdivision 10) and receipt of reports.House makes a similar cross reference change related to receipt of reports.  | Sec. 71. Failure to notify. Amends § 626.556, subd. 6a. Changes cross-references so that all reports are referred to law enforcement by the receiving social service agency. |
| **Section 88 (626.556, subd. 7)** requires the local welfare agency to determine if a report is screened in or out, and allows the agency to consider, when relevant, all previous history, including screened out reports.  It also includes language providing for certain information regarding the disposition of reports to be given to reporters, which is moved from current law in **626.556, subd. 3**. | Senate paragraph (b) adds that the agency receiving a report must consider, when relevant, all prior reports, including screened out reports, and allows agency to communicate with treating professionals and certain individuals, when determining whether a report will be screened in or out.Senate adds the language that was moved from subdivision 3 that requires the agency to provide a summary report to mandated reporters.House adds the requirement for the local agency to immediately notify law enforcement when reports are received. Senate requirement is in section 90.House creates paragraph (f) which requires the agency receiving the report to use screened out reports to determine whether an investigation or family assessment will be conducted.Both Senate and House require reports that are not accepted to be maintained as required in subdivision 11c, paragraph (a). Senate creates a new paragraph (e), and House includes it in paragraph (f).  | Sec. 72. Report; information provided to parent. Amends § 626.556, subd. 7, as amended by Laws 2015, ch. 4, § 2. Clarifies that the local welfare agency shall refer all reports to law enforcement, including those not accepted for investigation or assessment. In paragraph (f), strikes language prohibiting the use of information contained in screened out reports. Requires the local welfare agency to consider prior reports, including screened-out reports, when making screening decisions.Requires screened-out reports to be maintained according to the record retention schedule in subdivision 11c. |
| **Section 89 (626.556, subd. 7a)** requires child protection workers to follow the guidance provided in the child maltreatment screening guidelines when screening reports, and implement updated procedures and protocols.  Modifications to the screening guidelines by the county agency must be preapproved by the Commissioner of Human Services. | Difference in headnotes. Paragraph (a) is similar. Senate specifies that child protection intake workers, among others, shall follow the guidelines. Senate uses the formal name of the published guidelines.House specifies child protection staff, among others, shall follow the guidelines. House uses a descriptive name of the guidelines.Paragraph (b) is different. Senate prohibits the modification of the screening guidelines unless preapproved by the commissioner.House allows counties, in consultation with county attorneys, to adopt a standard consistent with law, then permits a county to accept reports that are not required to be screened in under the screening guidelines. | Sec. 73. Guidance for screening reports. Amends § 626.556, by adding subd. 7a. Paragraph (a) requires staff, supervisors, and other involved in child protection screening to follow guidance issued by the commissioner of human services and immediately implement updated policies and procedures when notified by the commissioner.Paragraph (b) allows a county social service agency to consult with the county attorney in order to accept reports that are not required to be screened in. |
| **Section 90 (626.556, subd. 10)** moves existing language from **626.556, subd. 3** to this subdivision, requiring law enforcement and local welfare agencies to immediately notify each other orally and in writing upon receipt of a report.  The law enforcement and local welfare agencies are required to designate a person responsible for ensuring that the notification duties under this section are carried out. | Senate consolidates in this section the requirement of cross-reporting between law enforcement and local agencies. This language is moved from 626.556, subdivision 3. The term “sexual abuse” is incorporated to conform with change Senate made to the definition to “substantial child endangerment.”Senate adds in paragraph (b), clause (4), “or assessment,” requiring the agency to prepare a separate report of the results of an assessment.House adds clarification that the local agency must notify law enforcement when a report is received, including those not accepted for investigation or assessment.In paragraph (h), clause (1), House adds that prior screened out reports are information relevant to investigations and assessments. | Sec. 74. Duties of local welfare agency and local law enforcement agency upon receipt of report. Amends § 626.556, subd. 10. Adds that the local welfare agency must notify law enforcement when the agency receives a report, including reports not accepted for investigation or assessment.Adds that an investigation shall be conducted on reports involving sexual abuse.Adds that prior screened out reports are relevant information in investigations and family assessments. |
| **Section 91 (626.556, subd. 10e)** strikes language that allowed counties to modify definitions or criteria under this section. | Identical | Sec. 75. Determinations. Amends § 626.556, subd. 10e. Strikes paragraph (k) which provides counties with the discretion to modify definitions and criteria associated with determining which allegations of abuse and neglect to investigate as long as the policies are consistent with statutes and rules and approved by the county board. |
| **Section 92 (626.556, subd. 10j)** requires the release of relevant private data to a mandated reporter who made the report and has an ongoing responsibility for the child, unless the agency determines that providing the data would not be in the best interests of the child. The agency may not provide the data to other mandated reporters. The reporter who receives private data under this subdivision must treat the data according to that classification. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 93 (626.556, subd. 10m)** requires the local welfare agency to consult with the county attorney to determine the appropriateness of filing a CHIPS petition if the family does not accept or comply with a plan for child protective services, voluntary services may not provide sufficient protection for the child, or the family is not cooperating with an investigation. The agency must consult with the tribal authority if the agency is an Indian tribe social service agency. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 94 (626.556, subd. 11c)** requires all reports under this paragraph, which includes reports that were not accepted for assessment or investigation, family assessment cases, and investigation cases that did not result in a finding of maltreatment, to be maintained by the local welfare agency for five years.  This section also requires the county agency to document the reason as to why a report was not accepted for assessment or investigation. | Both House and Senate require that all reports be retained for five years, but approach this goal in a different manner. Both House and Senate require sufficient information to identify report subjects and the reasons the report was not accepted. A substantive difference is that the House also requires that the nature of the maltreatment also be contained in the report. House also adds that screened out reports may be used in future screening decisions, which is consistent with previous modifications related to screened out reports.Paragraph (e). House strikes this paragraph.Senate retains the requirements that the data retained under this section must be entered into the state social services information system.  | Sec. 76. Welfare, court services agency, and school records maintained. Amends § 626.556, subd. 11c. Adds reports alleging child maltreatment that were not accepted for assessment or investigation to the record retention requirements of this paragraph. Requires those reports, family assessment cases, and cases in which an investigation determines there has been no maltreatment or need for protective services to be retained for five years. Requires that records of screened-out reports must contain sufficient information to identify the subjects of the reports, the alleged maltreatment, and the reasons the report was not accepted.Clarifies that retained records can be used in future screening decisions and risk and safety assessments.Strikes paragraph (e) which required reports that were not accepted for assessment or investigation to be retained for 365 days. |
| **Section 95 (626.556, subd. 16)** requires the commissioner to develop a plan to perform quality assurance reviews of county child protection screening practices and decisions. The commissioner shall access for evidence that screening practices have followed guidelines for cultural competence, and produce an annual report of summary results of reviews, which must be provided to the chairs and ranking minority members of appropriate legislative committees. | Paragraph (a). Senate uses term “county agency” and House uses “local welfare agency.” House requires quality assurance reviews to begin no later than September 30, 2015. Senate does not establish a date to begin reviews. Senate language contains more detailed requirements of what must be assessed during a review.Paragraph (b). House paragraph includes a sentence that the annual report must only contain non-identifying aggregate data. Remainder of the paragraph is identical.  | Sec. 77. Commissioner’s duty to provide oversight; quality assurance reviews; annual summary of reviews. Amends § 626.556, by adding subd. 16. Paragraph (a) instructs the commissioner to develop a plan for quality assurance reviews of local agency screening practices. Requires the commissioner to oversee and provide guidance to counties so that screening decisions are consistent throughout the state. Requires the reviews to begin no later than September 30, 2015.Paragraph (b) requires the commissioner to issue an annual report with summary results of the reviews. Specifies that the report must contain aggregate data and must not include data that could be used to identify any subject whose data is included in the report. Provides that the report must be classified as public information and be provided to designated members of the legislature. |
|  | House only section. | Sec. 78. Background studies. Amends § 626.559, subd. 1b. Requires all county employees who have child protection duties to undergo a background study. |
| **Sections 96 to 111** (**Laws 2014, chapter 189, sections 5, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 27,28, 29, 31, 43, 50, 51)** amend UIFSA to comply to federal law. | Identical | Secs. 79 to 94.Uniform Interstate Family Support Act. These sections make technical amendments to various sections the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, chapter 518C, to conform to changes in federal law. |
| **Section 112 (Laws 2014, chapter 189, section 73)** makes the UIFSA changes effective July 1, 2015. | Identical | Sec. 95. Effective date. Provides that UIFSA is effective July 1, 2015. |
| **Section 113** requires the commissioner, in coordination with stakeholders and advocates, to build on the group residential  housing (GRH) reforms made this session, and propose modifications that will result in a more cost-effective GRH program, and report to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over GRH issues by December 15, 2015. The working group shall examine the feasibility of restructuring service rates, develop a plan to fund only those services that are not funded by other programs based on individual need, and explore and recommend appropriate and effective assessment tools. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 114** requires the commissioner of human services to review the child support parenting expense adjustment, and identify and recommend changes. This section authorizes the commissioner to retain the services of an economist to help create an equitable parenting expense adjustment formula. | Senate section requires the commissioner to review the parenting expense adjustment to identify and recommend changes to the adjustment.House section establishes a work group to identify and recommend changes to the parenting expense adjustment.Both sections authorize use of an economist to aid in the creation of an equitable parenting expense adjustment. Allows the commissioner/work group to hire an economist by the use of a sole-source contract. | Sec. 96. Child support work group. Paragraph (a) establishes the work group to review the child support parenting expense adjustment and to identify and recommend changes to the adjustment.Paragraph (b) identifies stakeholders and legislators who will be members of the work group.Paragraph (c) authorizes the work group to contract with an economist to assist in creating an equitable parent expense adjustment formula.Paragraph (d) requires the work group to submit a report to the legislature and to the commissioner of human services by January 15, 2016. Requires the report to include recommendations for changes to the computation of child support and recommendations on the composition of a permanent child support task force.Paragraph (e) provides that terms, compensation, removal of group members, and filling of vacancies are governed by Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059.Paragraph (f) provides that the work group expires January 16, 2016. |
|  | This is a duplicate section. | Sec. 97. Instructions to the commissioner; screening guidelines. Paragraph (a) instructs the commissioner to update the child maltreatment screening guidelines no later than August 1, 2015, to reflect changes in the use of screened out reports and the emphasis on child health and safety. Requires the commissioner to consult with county attorneys while developing the updated guidelines. |
| **Section 115** requires the commissioner to update the child maltreatment screening guidelines by August 1, 2015, to require agencies to consider prior reports that were not accepted for assessment or investigation when screening a new report.  Requires the commissioner to work with a diverse group of community representatives who are experts on limiting cultural and ethnic bias. This section also requires the commissioner to publish and distribute the updated guidelines by September 30, 2015, and ensure that agency staff have received training on updated guidelines.  Agency staff must implement the guidelines by October 1, 2015. | Identical | Sec. 97. Instructions to the commissioner; child maltreatment screening guidelines. Paragraph (a) instructs the commissioner to update the child maltreatment screening guidelines no later than August 1, 2015, to reflect changes in the use of screened out reports and the emphasis on child health and safety. Requires the commissioner to consult with county attorneys while developing the updated guidelines.Paragraph (b) instructs the commissioner to publish and distribute the updated guidelines no later than September 30, 2015.Paragraph (c) requires county staff to implement the guidelines on October 1, 2015. |
| **Section 116** requires the commissioner to establish requirements for competency-based initial training, support, and continuing education for child protection supervisors. The training must advance continuous emphasis and improvement that integrates the client's traditions, customs, values, and faith into service delivery. | Identical | Sec. 99. Commissioner’s duty to provide training to child protection supervisors. Requires the commissioner to establish requirements for initial training and continuing education for child protection supervisors. Requires the training to be competency based |
| **Section 117** requires the commissioner to recommend an updated equitable distribution formula beginning in fiscal year 2018 for the child protection funding under **256M.41 and 256M.42**, taking into consideration relief to counties and tribes for child welfare and foster care costs, and report to the legislature by December 15, 2016. | Senate includes a reference to section 256M.42, a section not included in the House bill.Senate language states funding is for “child protection services and staffing,” and House states the funding is for “child protection staffing and expanded services.” | Sec. 100. Child protection updated formula. Instructs the commissioner to evaluate the formula established in section 256M.41 to determine whether it is equitable or whether modifications are needed to the distribution formula. |
| **Section 118** relates to the transfer from the Office of Ombudspersons for Families to DHS by stating that Minnesota Statutes, section 15.039, applies to this transfer. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 119** is a revisor instructions, requiring the revisor to alphabetize the definitions in section 626.556, subdivision 2. | Senate only section. |  |
| **Section 120** repeals the TANF appropriation for working family tax credit, which is effective for fiscal year 2016 and thereafter. This section also repeals provisions in chapter 257 related to the transfer of the Ombudsperson for Families. | Senate only section. |  |
|  | House only section. | Sec. 101. Legislative task force on child protection. Establishes the legislative task force and lists its duties. Allows the task force to provide oversight and monitoring of specified executive agencies, counties, and tribes in their efforts to assure the safety and well-being of children at risk of harm or children who are involved in the child welfare system. Requires the task force to issue a report to the legislature and governor. Provides that the task force expires the last day of the 2017 legislative session. |