

**Subject** Child welfare fiscal analysis; program and practice evaluation

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## Summary

This bill, as amended, requires the commissioner of children, youth, and families to contract with a third-party consultant to conduct a fiscal analysis that evaluates Minnesota's child welfare system staffing resources, financial systems, access to and use of federal funding or reimbursement, and other relevant information. The bill outlines how the consultant must be selected and what the consultant must evaluate, and requires a report on the fiscal analysis and any recommendations by June 30, 2026.

The bill also requires the commissioner of children, youth, and families to contract with a third-party consultant to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of programs, practices, and services in Minnesota's child welfare system, and develop practice and programmatic recommendations. The bill outlines what the evaluation and recommendations must include and entities with whom the consultant must engage, and requires a status report on the program evaluation and recommendations by July 1, 2026, and a final report by July 1, 2027.

To support and advise the third-party consultants, the bill establishes an advisory task force, lists duties of the advisory task force, and outlines membership and administration requirements. The bill specifies that each of Minnesota's 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations is invited to participate in the fiscal analysis and program evaluation, and that participating Tribal Nations have sovereignty over any shared data. The bill appropriates money to the commissioner of children, youth, and families to implement the requirements in the bill.