

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 912, the first engrossment, as follows:

1.2 Page 1, line 20, before the period, insert ", or the Minnesota American Indian Family
1.3 Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.0835"

1.4 Page 2, line 14, after "and" insert "the child's"

1.5 Page 2, line 15, after "efforts" insert "sets a higher standard for the responsible social
1.6 services agency than reasonable efforts and"

1.7 Page 2, line 16, delete "and to" and insert a comma

1.8 Page 2, line 17, delete everything after "child" and insert ", and"

1.9 Page 2, delete line 18

1.10 Page 2, line 19, delete "make active efforts to"

1.11 Page 2, line 20, delete everything after the period

1.12 Page 2, delete lines 21 and 22

1.13 Page 3, line 2, after "child's" insert "family," and after "community" insert a comma

1.14 Page 3, line 31, before the period, insert "and includes members of unique cultural groups
1.15 belonging to larger ethnic or cultural categories used in federal, state, or local demographic
1.16 data when they are known to be disproportionately affected"

1.17 Page 4, line 8, after "includes" insert "a placement in foster care following"

1.18 Page 5, line 7, delete "accountable" and insert "responsible" and after "for" insert "helping
1.19 with"

1.20 Page 5, line 23, delete everything after "to" and insert "prevent out-of-home placement
1.21 and preserve the child's family"

1.22 Page 5, line 24, delete everything before the period

- 2.1 Page 5, line 27, delete the semicolon
- 2.2 Page 5, line 28, delete "(3) hold a family group consultation meeting"
- 2.3 Page 5, line 29, delete "and"
- 2.4 Page 5, after line 29, insert:
- 2.5 "(3) work with the family to develop an alternative plan to out-of-home placement;
- 2.6 (4) before making decisions that may affect the child's safety and well-being or when
- 2.7 contemplating out-of-home placement, seek guidance from the child's family structure on
- 2.8 how the family can seek help, what resources are available, and what barriers the family
- 2.9 faces at that time; and"
- 2.10 Page 5, line 30, delete "(4)" and insert "(5)"
- 2.11 Page 6, line 12, before the period, insert ", or when the parent is not willing to follow a
- 2.12 safety plan, the parent has abandoned the child or is unavailable to do a safety plan, or when
- 2.13 the parent has a chronic substance abuse issues and is unable to parent"
- 2.14 Page 6, line 15, after "prevent" insert ", delay, or deny"
- 2.15 Page 7, line 3, delete "the responsible social services agency is notified that"
- 2.16 Page 8, line 4, delete "must be represented" and insert "has a right to counsel appointed
- 2.17 by the court"
- 2.18 Page 8, line 5, delete everything before the period
- 2.19 Page 9, line 8, delete "; TEMPORARY OUT-OF-HOME" and insert a period
- 2.20 Page 9, delete line 9
- 2.21 Page 9, line 33, delete "the child's continued placement in the home of" and insert "the
- 2.22 child physically remaining in the home with"
- 2.23 Page 10, line 12, after the period, insert "Relative placement consideration requirements
- 2.24 in section 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), and section 260C.221, subdivision 4,
- 2.25 apply."
- 2.26 Page 13, line 28, after "shall" insert "consider the requirements and responsibilities of
- 2.27 section 260.012, paragraph (a), and"
- 2.28 Page 15, line 31, after "commissioner" insert "and the African American Child
- 2.29 Well-Being Advisory Council, if applicable,"

3.1 Page 16, line 1, delete "In any adoptive or preadoptive placement proceeding" and insert
3.2 "Following a responsible social services agency adoptive placement decision"

3.3 Page 16, line 3, after "shall" insert "immediately" and delete "pending proceeding" and
3.4 insert "agency's decision"

3.5 Page 16, line 4, after the period, insert "The commissioner has the right to intervene in
3.6 cases where a determination of noncompliance with the act was made."

3.7 Page 16, line 6, after the comma, insert "and prior to processing an adoption placement
3.8 agreement,"

3.9 Page 16, line 10, after "notice" insert "and indicates an intent to exercise the
3.10 commissioner's right of intervention,"

3.11 Page 16, line 21, after the second comma, insert "the African American Child Well-Being
3.12 Advisory Council,"

3.13 Page 16, line 23, after the period, insert "When the case review consists of fewer than
3.14 five cases, the responsible social services agency must only report the case data to the
3.15 African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council."

3.16 Page 18, after line 4, insert:

3.17 "Sec. **[260.695] AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD WELL-BEING ADVISORY**
3.18 **COUNCIL.**

3.19 Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council shall:

3.20 (1) review annual reports related to African American children in out-of-home placement;

3.21 (2) assist in and make recommendations to the commissioner for developing strategies
3.22 to prevent out-of-home placement, promote culturally appropriate foster care and shelter
3.23 or facility placement decisions and settings for African American children, and improve
3.24 child welfare outcomes for African American children and families;

3.25 (3) review summary reports on case reviews prepared by the commissioner to ensure
3.26 that responsible social services agencies meet the needs of African American families. The
3.27 council may review individual case information with identifying information redacted to
3.28 provide context and oversight, to address disparities in the treatment of African American
3.29 children and families as compared to other children and families involved in the child welfare
3.30 system;

4.1 (4) assist the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council with making
4.2 recommendations to the commissioner and the legislature for public policy and statutory
4.3 changes that specifically consider the needs of African American children and families
4.4 involved in the child welfare system;

4.5 (5) advise the commissioner and responsible social services agencies on stakeholder
4.6 engagement and actions that the commissioner and agencies may take to improve child
4.7 welfare outcomes for African American children and families;

4.8 (6) assist the commissioner with developing strategies for public messaging and
4.9 communication related to racial disparities in child welfare outcomes for African American
4.10 children and families;

4.11 (7) assist the commissioner with identifying and developing internal and external
4.12 partnerships to support adequate access to services and resources for African American
4.13 children and families, including but not limited to housing assistance, employment assistance,
4.14 food and nutrition support, health care, child care assistance, and educational support and
4.15 training; and

4.16 (8) identify barriers to the development of a racially and ethnically diverse child welfare
4.17 workforce in Minnesota that includes professionals who have been directly impacted by
4.18 experiences within the child welfare system and explore strategies and partnerships to
4.19 address education and training needs, and hiring and recruitment practices.

4.20 Subd. 2. **Case review.** (a) The council may initiate a secondary case review of an African
4.21 American child's case upon the request of a child's parent or custodian, or the child, if the
4.22 council determines that a secondary case review is appropriate, after reviewing the
4.23 commissioner's summary report and conclusions from the initial case review. The purpose
4.24 of a secondary case review under this subdivision is to provide recommendations to the
4.25 commissioner and the responsible social services agency to improve the child welfare system
4.26 and provide better outcomes for the child and the child's family.

4.27 (b) Upon the request of the parent, custodian, or child, members of the African American
4.28 Child Well-Being Advisory Council shall have access to the following data, as permitted
4.29 under applicable statutes, for a child's case review under this subdivision:

4.30 (1) law enforcement investigative data;

4.31 (2) autopsy records and coroner or medical examiner investigative data;

4.32 (3) hospital, public health, and other medical records of the child;

4.33 (4) hospital and other medical records of the child's parent that relate to prenatal care;

5.1 (5) records of any responsible social services agency that provided services to the child
5.2 or family; and

5.3 (6) a responsible social services agency's personnel data regarding any agency employees
5.4 who provided services to the child or child's family members.

5.5 A state agency, statewide system, or political subdivision shall provide the data in paragraph
5.6 (b) to the African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council and the council's members
5.7 upon request of the commissioner. Not public data may be shared with members of the
5.8 council in connection with an individual case.

5.9 (c) Not public data acquired by the African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council
5.10 in the exercise of its duties retains its original classification. The commissioner may not
5.11 disclose data on individuals that were classified as confidential or private data on individuals
5.12 in possession of the state agency, statewide system, or political subdivision from which the
5.13 data were received, except that the commissioner may disclose responsible social services
5.14 agency data as provided in section 260E.35, subdivision 7, on individual cases involving a
5.15 fatality or near fatality of a person served by the responsible social services agency prior to
5.16 the date of the death or incident.

5.17 (d) The proceedings and records of the council that pertain to the case review of an
5.18 individual child are private data or confidential data, to the extent that they contain data on
5.19 an active investigation. Information, documents, and records otherwise available from other
5.20 sources are not immune from discovery or use in a civil or criminal action solely because
5.21 the information, documents, and records were presented during proceedings of the council.
5.22 A person who presented information before the council or who is a member of the council
5.23 is not prevented from testifying about matters within the person's knowledge.

5.24 Subd. 3. **Annual report.** By January 1 of each year, beginning January 1, 2026, the
5.25 council shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees
5.26 with jurisdiction over child protection on the council's activities under subdivision 4 and
5.27 other issues on which the council chooses to report. The report may include recommendations
5.28 for statutory changes to improve the child protection system and child welfare outcomes
5.29 for African American children and families.

5.30 Sec. **[260.696] AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD WELL-BEING UNIT.**

5.31 Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The African American Child Well-Being Unit, established by
5.32 the commissioner, shall perform the following functions:

6.1 (1) assist with the development of African American cultural competency training and
6.2 review child welfare curriculum in the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy to
6.3 ensure that responsible social services agency staff and other child welfare professionals
6.4 are appropriately prepared to engage with African American families and to support family
6.5 preservation and reunification;

6.6 (2) provide technical assistance, including on-site technical assistance, and case
6.7 consultation to responsible social services agencies to assist agencies with implementing
6.8 and complying with this act;

6.9 (3) monitor the number and placement settings of African American children in
6.10 out-of-home placement statewide, to identify trends and develop strategies to address
6.11 disproportionality in the child welfare system at the state and county levels;

6.12 (4) develop and implement a system for conducting case reviews when the commissioner
6.13 receives reports of noncompliance with this act or when requested by the parent or custodian
6.14 of an African American child. Case reviews may include but are not limited to a review of
6.15 placement prevention efforts, safety planning, case planning and service provision by the
6.16 responsible social services agency, relative placement consideration, and permanency
6.17 planning;

6.18 (5) establish and administer a request for proposals process for African American and
6.19 disproportionately represented family preservation grants under section 260.697, monitor
6.20 grant activities, and provide technical assistance to grantees;

6.21 (6) coordinate services and create internal and external partnerships to support adequate
6.22 access to services and resources for African American children and families, including but
6.23 not limited to housing assistance, employment assistance, food and nutrition support, health
6.24 care, child care assistance, and educational support and training, in consultation with the
6.25 African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council; and

6.26 (7) develop public messaging and communication to inform the general public in
6.27 Minnesota about racial disparities in child welfare outcomes, current efforts and strategies
6.28 to reduce racial disparities, and resources available to African American children and families
6.29 involved in the child welfare system.

6.30 Subd. 2. **Reports.** The African American Child Well-Being Unit shall provide regular
6.31 updates on unit activities, including summary reports of case reviews, to the African
6.32 American Child Welfare Oversight Council, and shall publish an annual census of African
6.33 American children in out-of-home placements statewide. The annual census shall include

7.1 data on the types of placements, age and sex of the children, how long the children have
7.2 been in out-of-home placements, and other relevant demographic information."

7.3 Page 20, line 3, reinstate the stricken language and strike "48" and insert "24"

7.4 Page 20, line 4, reinstate the stricken language

7.5 Renumber the clauses in sequence

7.6 Page 21, line 1, after "shall" insert "consult with the African American Child Well-Being
7.7 Advisory Council to"

7.8 Page 21, line 11, delete everything after "provided" and insert "by an individual or
7.9 organization that serves African American and disproportionately represented communities
7.10 or has experience and knowledge about African American and disproportionately represented
7.11 communities' social and cultural norms and historical trauma;"

7.12 Page 21, delete lines 12 to 14

7.13 Page 21, line 22, after "commissioner" insert ", in coordination with the African American
7.14 Child Well-Being Advisory Council,"

7.15 Page 21, line 26, after "shall" insert "work with the African American Child Well-Being
7.16 Advisory Council to"

7.17 Page 22, after line 27, insert:

7.18 "Sec. **SEVERABILITY.**

7.19 The provisions in this act are severable. If any part or provision of the sections of this
7.20 act, or the application of any section to any person, entity, or circumstance, is held invalid
7.21 or unconstitutional, the remainder, including the application of the part or provision to other
7.22 persons, entities, or circumstances, shall not be affected by the holding and shall continue
7.23 to have force and effect."

7.24 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

7.25 Amend the title accordingly