

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 1420 as follows:

1.2 Page 3, after line 13, insert:

1.3 "Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 260C.215, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.4 Subd. 3. **Recruitment specialist.** The commissioner shall designate a permanent
1.5 professional staff position for recruitment of foster and adoptive families. The recruitment
1.6 specialist shall provide services to child-placing agencies seeking to recruit adoptive and
1.7 foster care families and qualified professional staff. The recruitment specialist shall:

1.8 (1) develop materials for use by the agencies in training staff;

1.9 (2) conduct in-service workshops for agency personnel;

1.10 (3) provide consultation, technical assistance, and other appropriate services to agencies
1.11 to strengthen and improve service delivery ~~to diverse populations~~ related to successfully
1.12 finding, engaging, and supporting prospective foster and adoptive families who reflect the
1.13 specific racial and ethnic diversity of children in foster care and waiting for adoption; and

1.14 (4) conduct workshops for foster care and adoption recruiters to evaluate the effectiveness
1.15 of techniques for recruiting foster and adoptive families; ~~and~~

1.16 (5) conduct workshops and provide consultation, technical assistance, and other
1.17 appropriate services to agencies to strengthen and improve efforts to identify, engage, and
1.18 support relative caregivers and fictive kin; and

1.19 ~~(5)~~ (6) perform other duties as assigned by the commissioner to implement the Minnesota
1.20 Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.835.

1.21 The commissioner may contract for portions of these services.

2.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 260C.215, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.2 to read:

2.3 Subd. 3a. **Foster care and adoption recruitment grants.** (a) The commissioner shall
2.4 establish a grant program for organizations to provide services and supports to expand the
2.5 pool of prospective foster care and adoptive families who reflect the racial and ethnic
2.6 background of the population of children experiencing out-of-home placement in Minnesota.

2.7 (b) The commissioner shall issue a request for proposals for grants under this subdivision,
2.8 and specify the information and criteria required. Grant applicants must apply in the form
2.9 and manner specified by the commissioner.

2.10 (c) Eligible grant recipients include community-based nonprofit organizations, tribes or
2.11 tribal organizations, and other entities with documented experience working with families
2.12 and communities of color to provide relevant services.

2.13 (d) Grant funds awarded under this section must be used to:

2.14 (1) recruit prospective foster families and adoptive families who are members of
2.15 communities of color and reflect the racial and ethnic background of the population of
2.16 children experiencing out-of-home placement in Minnesota, in partnership with the
2.17 commissioner; and

2.18 (2) provide engagement and support services in order to retain foster families and adoptive
2.19 families, in partnership with the commissioner.

2.20 (e) The commissioner shall periodically evaluate the grant program established under
2.21 this subdivision to ensure the effectiveness of recruitment, engagement, and support services
2.22 provided in partnership with grant recipients.

2.23 (f) The commissioner shall collect and analyze data and develop an annual report on the
2.24 racial and ethnic background of the pool of prospective and current foster and adoptive
2.25 families in Minnesota. The commissioner must submit the written report to the chairs and
2.26 ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and
2.27 human services policy and finance no later than January 1, 2022, and each January 1
2.28 thereafter.

2.29 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 260C.215, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

2.30 **Subd. 6. Duties of child-placing agencies.** (a) Each authorized child-placing agency
2.31 must:

3.1 (1) develop and follow procedures for implementing the requirements of section
3.2 260C.212, subdivision 2, and the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25,
3.3 sections 1901 to 1923;

3.4 (2) have a written plan for recruiting adoptive and foster families that reflect the ethnic
3.5 and racial diversity of children who are in need of foster and adoptive homes. The plan must
3.6 include:

3.7 (i) strategies for using existing resources in diverse communities;

3.8 (ii) use of diverse outreach staff wherever possible;

3.9 (iii) use of diverse foster homes for placements after birth and before adoption; ~~and~~

3.10 (iv) strategies for finding, engaging, and supporting relative caregivers and fictive kin
3.11 for individual children in need of foster and adoptive homes;

3.12 (v) specific strategies for targeted recruitment for each individual racial and ethnic
3.13 community that reflects the racial and ethnic population of children in out-of-home
3.14 placement; and

3.15 ~~(iv)~~ (vi) other techniques as appropriate;

3.16 (3) have a written plan for training and supporting adoptive and foster families;

3.17 (4) have a written plan for employing staff in adoption and foster care who have the
3.18 capacity to assess the foster and adoptive parents' ability to understand and validate a child's
3.19 cultural and meet the child's individual needs, and to advance the best interests of the child,
3.20 as required in section 260C.212, subdivision 2. The plan must include staffing goals and
3.21 objectives;

3.22 (5) ensure that adoption and foster care workers attend training offered or approved by
3.23 the Department of Human Services regarding cultural diversity and the needs of special
3.24 needs children;

3.25 (6) develop and implement procedures for implementing the requirements of the Indian
3.26 Child Welfare Act and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act; and

3.27 (7) ensure that children in foster care are protected from the effects of secondhand smoke
3.28 and that licensed foster homes maintain a smoke-free environment in compliance with
3.29 subdivision 9.

3.30 (b) In determining the suitability of a proposed placement of an Indian child, the standards
3.31 to be applied must be the prevailing social and cultural standards of the Indian child's

4.1 community, and the agency shall defer to tribal judgment as to suitability of a particular
4.2 home when the tribe has intervened pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act."

4.3 Page 7, after line 30, insert:

4.4 "Sec. 10. **APPROPRIATION; FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION RECRUITMENT**
4.5 **GRANTS.**

4.6 \$..... in fiscal year 2022 and \$..... in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general
4.7 fund to the commissioner of human services for the foster care and adoption recruitment
4.8 grant program established under Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.215, subdivision 3a."

4.9 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

4.10 Amend the title accordingly