

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 5021

(SENATE AUTHORS: WIKLUND)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
04/09/2026	7934	Introduction and first reading Referred to Health and Human Services

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to children; modifying federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

1.3 disallowances; codifying and modernizing child care licensing provisions; requiring

1.4 a report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections

1.5 142E.16, by adding a subdivision; 142F.05, by adding a subdivision; Minnesota

1.6 Statutes 2025 Supplement, sections 142A.03, subdivision 2; 256.043, subdivision

1.7 3; Laws 2024, chapter 117, section 22; Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter

1.8 3, article 20, section 18; Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 10, article 10,

1.9 section 9, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,

1.10 chapter 142D.

1.11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.12 **ARTICLE 1**

1.13 **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

1.14 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 142A.03, subdivision 2, is

1.15 amended to read:

1.16 Subd. 2. **Duties of the commissioner.** (a) The commissioner may apply for and accept

1.17 on behalf of the state any grants, bequests, gifts, or contributions for the purpose of carrying

1.18 out the duties and responsibilities of the commissioner. Any money received under this

1.19 paragraph is appropriated and dedicated for the purpose for which the money is granted.

1.20 The commissioner must biennially report to the chairs and ranking minority members of

1.21 relevant legislative committees and divisions by January 15 of each even-numbered year a

1.22 list of all grants and gifts received under this subdivision.

1.23 (b) Pursuant to law, the commissioner may apply for and receive money made available

1.24 from federal sources for the purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the

1.25 commissioner.

2.1 (c) The commissioner may make contracts with and grants to Tribal Nations, public and
2.2 private agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and individuals using appropriated
2.3 money.

2.4 (d) The commissioner must develop program objectives and performance measures for
2.5 evaluating progress toward achieving the objectives. The commissioner must identify the
2.6 objectives, performance measures, and current status of achieving the measures in a biennial
2.7 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of relevant legislative committees and
2.8 divisions. The report is due no later than January 15 each even-numbered year. The report
2.9 must include, when possible, the following objectives:

2.10 (1) centering and including the lived experiences of children and youth, including those
2.11 with disabilities and mental illness and their families, in all aspects of the department's work;

2.12 (2) increasing the effectiveness of the department's programs in addressing the needs of
2.13 children and youth facing racial, economic, or geographic inequities;

2.14 (3) increasing coordination and reducing inefficiencies among the department's programs
2.15 and the funding sources that support the programs;

2.16 (4) increasing the alignment and coordination of family access to child care and early
2.17 learning programs and improving systems of support for early childhood and learning
2.18 providers and services;

2.19 (5) improving the connection between the department's programs and the kindergarten
2.20 through grade 12 and higher education systems; and

2.21 (6) minimizing and streamlining the effort required of youth and families to receive
2.22 services to which the youth and families are entitled.

2.23 (e) The commissioner shall administer and supervise the forms of public assistance and
2.24 other activities or services that are vested in the commissioner. Administration and
2.25 supervision of activities or services includes but is not limited to assuring timely and accurate
2.26 distribution of benefits, completeness of service, and quality program management. In
2.27 addition to administering and supervising activities vested by law in the department, the
2.28 commissioner has the authority to:

2.29 (1) require county agency participation in training and technical assistance programs to
2.30 promote compliance with statutes, rules, federal laws, regulations, and policies governing
2.31 the programs and activities administered by the commissioner;

2.32 (2) monitor, on an ongoing basis, the performance of county agencies in the operation
2.33 and administration of activities and programs; enforce compliance with statutes, rules,

3.1 federal laws, regulations, and policies governing welfare services; and promote excellence
3.2 of administration and program operation;

3.3 (3) develop a quality control program or other monitoring program to review county
3.4 performance and accuracy of benefit determinations;

3.5 (4) require county agencies to make an adjustment to the public assistance benefits issued
3.6 to any individual consistent with federal law and regulation and state law and rule and to
3.7 issue or recover benefits as appropriate;

3.8 (5) delay or deny payment of all or part of the state and federal share of benefits and
3.9 administrative reimbursement according to the procedures set forth in section 142A.10;

3.10 (6) make contracts with and grants to public and private agencies and organizations,
3.11 both for-profit and nonprofit, and individuals, using appropriated funds; and

3.12 (7) enter into contractual agreements with federally recognized Indian Tribes with a
3.13 reservation in Minnesota to the extent necessary for the Tribe to operate a federally approved
3.14 family assistance program or any other program under the supervision of the commissioner.
3.15 The commissioner shall consult with the affected county or counties in the contractual
3.16 agreement negotiations, if the county or counties wish to be included, in order to avoid the
3.17 duplication of county and Tribal assistance program services. The commissioner may
3.18 establish necessary accounts for the purposes of receiving and disbursing funds as necessary
3.19 for the operation of the programs.

3.20 The commissioner shall work in conjunction with the commissioner of human services to
3.21 carry out the duties of this paragraph when necessary and feasible.

3.22 (f) The commissioner shall inform county agencies, on a timely basis, of changes in
3.23 statute, rule, federal law, regulation, and policy necessary to county agency administration
3.24 of the programs and activities administered by the commissioner.

3.25 (g) The commissioner shall administer and supervise child welfare activities, including
3.26 promoting the enforcement of laws preventing child maltreatment and protecting children
3.27 with a disability and children who are in need of protection or services, licensing and
3.28 supervising child care and child-placing agencies, and supervising the care of children in
3.29 foster care. The commissioner shall coordinate with the commissioner of human services
3.30 on activities impacting children overseen by the Department of Human Services, such as
3.31 disability services, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment.

3.32 (h) The commissioner shall assist and cooperate with local, state, and federal departments,
3.33 agencies, and institutions.

4.1 (i) The commissioner shall establish and maintain any administrative units reasonably
4.2 necessary for the performance of administrative functions common to all divisions of the
4.3 department.

4.4 (j) The commissioner shall act as designated guardian of children pursuant to chapter
4.5 260C. For children under the guardianship of the commissioner or a Tribe in Minnesota
4.6 recognized by the Secretary of the Interior whose interests would be best served by adoptive
4.7 placement, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a
4.8 Minnesota Tribal social services agency to provide adoption services. For children in
4.9 out-of-home care whose interests would be best served by a transfer of permanent legal and
4.10 physical custody to a relative under section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or equivalent in Tribal
4.11 code, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a Minnesota
4.12 Tribal social services agency to provide permanency services. A contract with a licensed
4.13 child-placing agency must be designed to supplement existing county efforts and may not
4.14 replace existing county programs or Tribal social services, unless the replacement is agreed
4.15 to by the county board and the appropriate exclusive bargaining representative, Tribal
4.16 governing body, or the commissioner has evidence that child placements of the county
4.17 continue to be substantially below that of other counties. Funds encumbered and obligated
4.18 under an agreement for a specific child shall remain available until the terms of the agreement
4.19 are fulfilled or the agreement is terminated.

4.20 (k) The commissioner has the authority to conduct and administer experimental projects
4.21 to test methods and procedures of administering assistance and services to recipients or
4.22 potential recipients of public benefits. To carry out the experimental projects, the
4.23 commissioner may waive the enforcement of existing specific statutory program
4.24 requirements, rules, and standards in one or more counties. The order establishing the waiver
4.25 must provide alternative methods and procedures of administration and must not conflict
4.26 with the basic purposes, coverage, or benefits provided by law. No project under this
4.27 paragraph shall exceed four years. No order establishing an experimental project as authorized
4.28 by this paragraph is effective until the following conditions have been met:

4.29 (1) the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services has agreed, for the same
4.30 project, to waive state plan requirements relative to statewide uniformity; and

4.31 (2) a comprehensive plan, including estimated project costs, has been approved by the
4.32 Legislative Advisory Commission and filed with the commissioner of administration.

4.33 (l) The commissioner shall, according to federal requirements and in coordination with
4.34 the commissioner of human services, establish procedures to be followed by local welfare

5.1 boards in creating citizen advisory committees, including procedures for selection of
5.2 committee members.

5.3 (m) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions that are
5.4 based on quality control error rates under United States Code, title 7, section 2025(c), for
5.5 ~~the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) program formerly codified in sections~~
5.6 ~~256.72 to 256.87~~ or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the following
5.7 manner:

5.8 (1) one-half of the total amount of the disallowance shall be borne by the county boards
5.9 responsible for administering the programs. ~~For AFDC, disallowances shall be shared by~~
5.10 ~~each county board in the same proportion as that county's expenditures to the total of all~~
5.11 ~~counties' expenditures for AFDC.~~ For SNAP, Sanctions shall be shared by each county
5.12 board, with 50 percent of the sanction being distributed to each county in the same proportion
5.13 as that county's administrative costs for SNAP benefits are to the total of all SNAP
5.14 administrative costs for all counties, and 50 percent of the sanctions being distributed to
5.15 each county in the same proportion as that county's value of SNAP benefits issued are to
5.16 the total of all benefits issued for all counties. Each county shall pay its share of the
5.17 disallowance to the state of Minnesota. When a county fails to pay the amount due under
5.18 this paragraph, the commissioner may deduct the amount from reimbursement otherwise
5.19 due the county, or the attorney general, upon the request of the commissioner, may institute
5.20 civil action to recover the amount due; ~~and~~

5.21 (2) notwithstanding the provisions of clause (1), if the disallowance results from knowing
5.22 noncompliance by one or more counties with a specific program instruction, and that knowing
5.23 noncompliance is a matter of official county board record, the commissioner may require
5.24 payment or recover from the county or counties, in the manner prescribed in clause (1), an
5.25 amount equal to the portion of the total disallowance that resulted from the noncompliance
5.26 and may distribute the balance of the disallowance according to clause (1); and

5.27 (3) the commissioner's allocation requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to
5.28 the state share of SNAP benefit costs under section 142F.05, subdivision 5.

5.29 (n) The commissioner shall develop and implement special projects that maximize
5.30 reimbursements and result in the recovery of money to the state. For the purpose of recovering
5.31 state money, the commissioner may enter into contracts with third parties. Any recoveries
5.32 that result from projects or contracts entered into under this paragraph shall be deposited
5.33 in the state treasury and credited to a special account until the balance in the account reaches
5.34 \$1,000,000. When the balance in the account exceeds \$1,000,000, the excess shall be

6.1 transferred and credited to the general fund. All money in the account is appropriated to the
6.2 commissioner for the purposes of this paragraph.

6.3 (o) The commissioner has the authority to establish and enforce the following county
6.4 reporting requirements:

6.5 (1) the commissioner shall establish fiscal and statistical reporting requirements necessary
6.6 to account for the expenditure of funds allocated to counties for programs administered by
6.7 the commissioner. When establishing financial and statistical reporting requirements, the
6.8 commissioner shall evaluate all reports, in consultation with the counties, to determine if
6.9 the reports can be simplified or the number of reports can be reduced;

6.10 (2) the county board shall submit monthly or quarterly reports to the department as
6.11 required by the commissioner. Monthly reports are due no later than 15 working days after
6.12 the end of the month. Quarterly reports are due no later than 30 calendar days after the end
6.13 of the quarter, unless the commissioner determines that the deadline must be shortened to
6.14 20 calendar days to avoid jeopardizing compliance with federal deadlines or risking a loss
6.15 of federal funding. Only reports that are complete, legible, and in the required format shall
6.16 be accepted by the commissioner;

6.17 (3) if the required reports are not received by the deadlines established in clause (2), the
6.18 commissioner may delay payments and withhold funds from the county board until the next
6.19 reporting period. When the report is needed to account for the use of federal funds and the
6.20 late report results in a reduction in federal funding, the commissioner shall withhold from
6.21 the county boards with late reports an amount equal to the reduction in federal funding until
6.22 full federal funding is received;

6.23 (4) a county board that submits reports that are late, illegible, incomplete, or not in the
6.24 required format for two out of three consecutive reporting periods is considered
6.25 noncompliant. When a county board is found to be noncompliant, the commissioner shall
6.26 notify the county board of the reason the county board is considered noncompliant and
6.27 request that the county board develop a corrective action plan stating how the county board
6.28 plans to correct the problem. The corrective action plan must be submitted to the
6.29 commissioner within 45 days after the date the county board received notice of
6.30 noncompliance;

6.31 (5) the final deadline for fiscal reports or amendments to fiscal reports is one year after
6.32 the date the report was originally due. If the commissioner does not receive a report by the
6.33 final deadline, the county board forfeits the funding associated with the report for that

7.1 reporting period and the county board must repay any funds associated with the report
7.2 received for that reporting period;

7.3 (6) the commissioner may not delay payments, withhold funds, or require repayment
7.4 under clause (3) or (5) if the county demonstrates that the commissioner failed to provide
7.5 appropriate forms, guidelines, and technical assistance to enable the county to comply with
7.6 the requirements. If the county board disagrees with an action taken by the commissioner
7.7 under clause (3) or (5), the county board may appeal the action according to sections 14.57
7.8 to 14.69; and

7.9 (7) counties subject to withholding of funds under clause (3) or forfeiture or repayment
7.10 of funds under clause (5) shall not reduce or withhold benefits or services to clients to cover
7.11 costs incurred due to actions taken by the commissioner under clause (3) or (5).

7.12 (p) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions for audit
7.13 exceptions when federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions are based on a statewide random
7.14 sample in direct proportion to each county's claim for that period.

7.15 (q) The commissioner is responsible for ensuring the detection, prevention, investigation,
7.16 and resolution of fraudulent activities or behavior by applicants, recipients, and other
7.17 participants in the programs administered by the department. The commissioner shall
7.18 cooperate with the commissioner of education to enforce the requirements for program
7.19 integrity and fraud prevention for investigation for child care assistance under chapter 142E.

7.20 (r) The commissioner shall require county agencies to identify overpayments, establish
7.21 claims, and utilize all available and cost-beneficial methodologies to collect and recover
7.22 these overpayments in the programs administered by the department.

7.23 (s) The commissioner shall develop recommended standards for child foster care homes
7.24 that address the components of specialized therapeutic services to be provided by child
7.25 foster care homes with those services.

7.26 (t) The commissioner shall authorize the method of payment to or from the department
7.27 as part of the programs administered by the department. This authorization includes the
7.28 receipt or disbursement of funds held by the department in a fiduciary capacity as part of
7.29 the programs administered by the department.

7.30 (u) In coordination with the commissioner of human services, the commissioner shall
7.31 create and provide county and Tribal agencies with blank applications, affidavits, and other
7.32 forms as necessary for public assistance programs.

8.1 (v) The commissioner shall cooperate with the federal government and its public welfare
8.2 agencies in any reasonable manner as may be necessary to qualify for federal aid for
8.3 temporary assistance for needy families and in conformity with Title I of Public Law 104-193,
8.4 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and successor
8.5 amendments, including making reports that contain information required by the federal
8.6 Social Security Advisory Board and complying with any provisions the board may find
8.7 necessary to assure the correctness and verification of the reports.

8.8 (w) On or before January 15 in each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall make
8.9 a biennial report to the governor concerning the activities of the agency.

8.10 (x) The commissioner shall enter into agreements with other departments of the state as
8.11 necessary to meet all requirements of the federal government.

8.12 (y) The commissioner may cooperate with other state agencies in establishing reciprocal
8.13 agreements in instances where a child receiving Minnesota family investment program
8.14 (MFIP) assistance or its out-of-state equivalent moves or contemplates moving into or out
8.15 of the state, in order that the child may continue to receive MFIP or equivalent aid from the
8.16 state moved from until the child has resided for one year in the state moved to.

8.17 (z) The commissioner shall provide appropriate technical assistance to county agencies
8.18 to develop methods to have county financial workers remind and encourage recipients of
8.19 aid to families with dependent children, the Minnesota family investment program, the
8.20 Minnesota family investment plan, family general assistance, or SNAP benefits whose
8.21 assistance unit includes at least one child under the age of five to have each young child
8.22 immunized against childhood diseases. The commissioner must examine the feasibility of
8.23 utilizing the capacity of a statewide computer system to assist county agency financial
8.24 workers in performing this function at appropriate intervals.

8.25 (aa) The commissioner shall have the power and authority to accept on behalf of the
8.26 state contributions and gifts for the use and benefit of children under the guardianship or
8.27 custody of the commissioner. The commissioner may also receive and accept on behalf of
8.28 such children money due and payable to them as old age and survivors insurance benefits,
8.29 veterans benefits, pensions, or other such monetary benefits. Gifts, contributions, pensions,
8.30 and benefits under this paragraph must be deposited in and disbursed from the social welfare
8.31 fund provided for in sections 256.88 to 256.92.

8.32 (bb) The specific enumeration of powers and duties in this section must not be construed
8.33 to be a limitation upon the general powers granted to the commissioner.

9.1 Sec. 2. [142D.095] PRESCHOOL ASSESSMENT.

9.2 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families shall implement a preschool
9.3 assessment of children's development in the year prior to kindergarten entry.

9.4 (b) School districts and charter schools must choose a commissioner-approved formative
9.5 and developmentally appropriate assessment tool approved by the department that is:

9.6 (1) aligned to the state early childhood indicators of progress and based on the criteria
9.7 to be an early learning assessment approved by the department; and

9.8 (2) based, in part, on information collected from teachers, early learning professionals,
9.9 families, and other partners.

9.10 (c) The department may provide technical assistance and professional development
9.11 related to the assessment to educators, school districts, and charter schools.

9.12 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.16, is amended by adding a subdivision to
9.13 read:

9.14 Subd. 1a. **Training required for payments.** (a) As a condition of payment and prior to
9.15 authorization, all providers receiving child care assistance payments must complete
9.16 compliance training developed by the commissioner that addresses program integrity
9.17 requirements including but not limited to record keeping and billing requirements. The
9.18 commissioner shall develop criteria, reporting requirements, and standards for when providers
9.19 need to renew training after their initial registration.

9.20 (b) Providers that do not have an active registration to receive child care assistance on
9.21 or before April 12, 2027, must complete the training under this subdivision prior to
9.22 authorization. Providers with an active registration on or before April 12, 2027, must
9.23 complete the training under this subdivision before the provider's first renewal after April
9.24 12, 2027, or April 10, 2028, whichever is later.

9.25 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142F.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to
9.26 read:

9.27 Subd. 5. **State share of SNAP benefit costs.** The commissioner of children, youth, and
9.28 families shall pay the state share of SNAP benefit costs as determined by the United States
9.29 Department of Agriculture to meet the state cost share requirements under United States
9.30 Code, title 7, section 2013(a)(2)(B).

10.1 **Sec. 5. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**
10.2 **FAMILIES; PHASED ROADMAP TO MODERNIZED APPLICATION AND**
10.3 **ELIGIBILITY TECHNOLOGY.**

10.4 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must undertake a study on and
10.5 create a comprehensive phased roadmap for modernized program application and eligibility
10.6 technology and processes for a cross-agency, universal eligibility determination capability
10.7 for human services programs. At a minimum, the study must include:

10.8 (1) economic assistance and food support;

10.9 (2) child care and related early childhood programs;

10.10 (3) child welfare;

10.11 (4) long-term services and supports;

10.12 (5) behavioral health; and

10.13 (6) health care programs.

10.14 (b) The study must incorporate and build upon relevant current and prior modernization
10.15 reports, implementation efforts, and engagement and include:

10.16 (1) feedback solicited from counties, Tribal Nations, and individuals with lived experience
10.17 participating in human services programs and using state technology systems;

10.18 (2) information collected from other states regarding comparable eligibility technology
10.19 modernization efforts;

10.20 (3) information on how the phased roadmap will simplify policies and processes, reduce
10.21 inefficiencies and duplication, and improve service delivery through technology
10.22 modernization and alignment of state technology systems;

10.23 (4) options and high-level considerations for integration with other human services
10.24 technology platforms to improve coordination of eligibility and services, streamline eligibility
10.25 and renewal determinations, and enhance accuracy and timeliness; and

10.26 (5) a phased timeline and estimate of the costs associated with implementation of the
10.27 roadmap to modernized eligibility technology.

10.28 (c) The commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members
10.29 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over children and families, health and human
10.30 services, and information technology services by September 1, 2029. The commissioner

11.1 must coordinate with the commissioners of human services, information technology services,
11.2 and management and budget and engage counties and Tribal Nations.

11.3 **Sec. 6. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**
11.4 **FAMILIES; HUMAN SERVICES REDESIGN STUDY.**

11.5 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must prepare a study that assesses
11.6 state and local social services agency roles for administering economic assistance, child
11.7 support, and child care programs, as well as provider licensing and recipient fraud
11.8 investigation functions. The study must:

11.9 (1) identify and assess the current roles and responsibilities held by local social services
11.10 agencies and the state for oversight and administration;

11.11 (2) evaluate impacts on efficiencies, effectiveness, and outcomes associated with
11.12 county-administered and state-administered models;

11.13 (3) estimate current costs for county-administered functions and the fiscal impact of
11.14 moving to a state-administered system;

11.15 (4) analyze current financing models and resources that support county-administered
11.16 human services and the impact of shifting to a state administered model; and

11.17 (5) assess changes to policy, legal, operational, information technology, human resources,
11.18 and other areas needed to shift county-administered functions to the state.

11.19 (b) The commissioner must, at a minimum, engage with providers, advocates, and
11.20 stakeholders, including:

11.21 (1) local social services agencies;

11.22 (2) individuals and providers who have lived experience with applying for and receiving
11.23 public assistance;

11.24 (3) family child care providers that have been licensed by counties and family child care
11.25 licensing county workers; and

11.26 (4) local social service agency fraud investigators and law enforcement agencies,
11.27 including the Office of the Attorney General, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and
11.28 county attorneys.

11.29 (c) Notwithstanding chapter 13 or other statute or rule to the contrary, counties must
11.30 provide financial, human resources, and other information necessary to complete the study

12.1 to the commissioner in the form, in the manner, and on the timeline requested by the
12.2 commissioner.

12.3 (d) The commissioner must submit a report on the study under this section to the chairs
12.4 and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over children,
12.5 youth, and families by October 1, 2028.

12.6 **ARTICLE 2**

12.7 **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES APPROPRIATIONS**

12.8 Section 1. **CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES APPROPRIATIONS.**

12.9 The dollar amounts shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are added to or, if
12.10 shown in parentheses, are subtracted from the appropriations in Laws 2025, First Special
12.11 Session chapter 3, article 22, from the general fund or any fund named for the purposes
12.12 specified in this article, to be available for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The
12.13 figures "2026" and "2027" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under them
12.14 are available for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively. "The
12.15 first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium" is
12.16 fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

12.17		<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
12.18		<u>Available for the Year</u>	
12.19		<u>Ending June 30</u>	
12.20		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
12.21	<u>Sec. 2. COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN,</u>		
12.22	<u>YOUTH, AND FAMILIES</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,113,000</u> <u>\$</u> <u>45,114,000</u>

12.23	<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>		
12.24		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
12.25	<u>General</u>	<u>1,113,000</u>	<u>45,114,000</u>

12.26 The amounts that may be spent for each
12.27 purpose are specified in the following sections.

12.28 **Sec. 3. OPERATIONS AND**
12.29 **ADMINISTRATION; AGENCY-WIDE**
12.30 **SUPPORTS**

12.31	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-0-</u> <u>\$</u> <u>38,993,000</u>
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12.32	<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>		
12.33		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
12.34	<u>General</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>38,994,000</u>

13.1 **Subd. 2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance**
13.2 **Program Systems Improvement**

13.3 \$8,217,000 in fiscal year 2027 is from the
13.4 general fund to improve and sustain
13.5 information technology systems supporting
13.6 the delivery of the Supplemental Nutrition
13.7 Assistance Program. The general fund base
13.8 for this appropriation is \$10,993,000 in fiscal
13.9 year 2028 and \$10,147,000 in fiscal year 2029.

13.10 **Subd. 3. MAXIS**

13.11 \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for
13.12 information technology improvements to
13.13 MAXIS and related systems. The base for this
13.14 appropriation is \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2028
13.15 and \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2029.

13.16 **Subd. 4. Information Technology Systems Study**

13.17 \$2,650,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for a study
13.18 on eligibility processes, policies, and
13.19 modernization approaches for information
13.20 technology systems. This is a onetime
13.21 appropriation.

13.22 **Subd. 5. Modernized Eligibility Systems**

13.23 \$653,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for the
13.24 development and implementation of
13.25 modernized program eligibility processes and
13.26 information technology solutions. The base
13.27 for this appropriation is \$1,306,000 in fiscal
13.28 year 2028 and \$1,306,000 in fiscal year 2029.

13.29 **Subd. 6. Program Integrity Technology**

13.30 \$922,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for enhancing
13.31 program integrity information technology
13.32 resources. The base for this appropriation is
13.33 \$519,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$520,000 in
13.34 fiscal year 2029.

14.1 **Subd. 7. Expanded Program Integrity Capacity**

14.2 \$1,201,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for enhanced
14.3 program integrity capacity within the Office
14.4 of Inspector General. The base for this
14.5 appropriation is \$1,387,000 in fiscal year 2028
14.6 and \$1,387,000 in fiscal year 2029.

14.7 **Subd. 8. Training Compliance Information**
14.8 **Technology**

14.9 \$350,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for updated
14.10 information technology to track compliance
14.11 with training requirements for the child care
14.12 assistance program. The base for this
14.13 appropriation is \$153,000 in fiscal year 2028
14.14 and \$153,000 in fiscal year 2029.

14.15 **Sec. 4. OPERATIONS AND**
14.16 **ADMINISTRATION; EARLY CHILDHOOD** **\$** **281,000** **\$** **893,000**

14.17 **Subdivision 1. Child Care Provider Training**

14.18 \$465,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for increased
14.19 training for child care providers participating
14.20 in the child care assistance program and other
14.21 related programs administered by the
14.22 commissioner of children, youth, and families.
14.23 The base for this appropriation is \$354,000 in
14.24 fiscal year 2028 and \$515,000 in fiscal year
14.25 2029.

14.26 **Subd. 2. Early Childhood Program Integrity**

14.27 \$147,000 in fiscal year 2027 is for enhanced
14.28 program integrity capacity within the Early
14.29 Childhood Administration. The base for this
14.30 appropriation is \$172,000 in fiscal year 2028
14.31 and \$172,000 in fiscal year 2029.

14.32 **Sec. 5. OPERATIONS AND**
14.33 **ADMINISTRATION; FAMILY WELL-BEING**

14.34 **Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation** **\$** **-0-** **\$** **3,577,000**

16.1 behavioral health workforce. Any evaluations of practices under this paragraph must be
16.2 designed cooperatively by the commissioner and Tribal nations or urban Indian communities.
16.3 The commissioner must not require recipients to provide the details of specific ceremonies
16.4 or identities of healers.

16.5 (e) \$400,000 is appropriated to the commissioner of human services for competitive
16.6 grants for opioid-focused Project ECHO programs.

16.7 (f) ~~\$277,000~~ \$321,000 in fiscal year ~~2024~~ 2027 and ~~\$321,000~~ each year thereafter is
16.8 appropriated to the commissioner of ~~human services~~ children, youth, and families to
16.9 administer the funding distribution and reporting requirements in paragraph ~~(e)~~ (m).

16.10 (g) \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 and \$3,000,000 each year thereafter is appropriated
16.11 to the commissioner of human services for safe recovery sites start-up and capacity building
16.12 grants under section 254B.18.

16.13 (h) \$395,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$415,000 each year thereafter is appropriated to
16.14 the commissioner of human services for the opioid overdose surge alert system under section
16.15 245.891.

16.16 (i) \$300,000 is appropriated to the commissioner of management and budget for
16.17 evaluation activities under section 256.042, subdivision 1, paragraph (c).

16.18 (j) \$261,000 is appropriated to the commissioner of human services for the provision of
16.19 administrative services to the Opiate Epidemic Response Advisory Council and for the
16.20 administration of the grants awarded under paragraph (n).

16.21 (k) \$126,000 is appropriated to the Board of Pharmacy for the collection of the registration
16.22 fees under section 151.066.

16.23 (l) \$672,000 is appropriated to the commissioner of public safety for the Bureau of
16.24 Criminal Apprehension. Of this amount, \$384,000 is for drug scientists and lab supplies
16.25 and \$288,000 is for special agent positions focused on drug interdiction and drug trafficking.

16.26 (m) After the appropriations in paragraphs (b) to (l) are made, 50 percent of the remaining
16.27 amount is appropriated to the commissioner of children, youth, and families for distribution
16.28 to county social service agencies and Tribal social service agency initiative projects
16.29 authorized under section 256.01, subdivision 14b, to provide prevention and child protection
16.30 services to children and families who are affected by addiction. The commissioner shall
16.31 distribute this money proportionally to county social service agencies and Tribal social
16.32 service agency initiative projects through a formula based on intake data from the previous
16.33 three calendar years related to substance use and out-of-home placement episodes where

17.1 parental drug abuse is a reason for the out-of-home placement. County social service agencies
 17.2 and Tribal social service agency initiative projects receiving funds from the opiate epidemic
 17.3 response fund must annually report to the commissioner on how the funds were used to
 17.4 provide prevention and child protection services, including measurable outcomes, as
 17.5 determined by the commissioner. County social service agencies and Tribal social service
 17.6 agency initiative projects must not use funds received under this paragraph to supplant
 17.7 current state or local funding received for child protection services for children and families
 17.8 who are affected by addiction.

17.9 (n) After the appropriations in paragraphs (b) to (m) are made, the remaining amount in
 17.10 the account is appropriated to the commissioner of human services to award grants as
 17.11 specified by the Opiate Epidemic Response Advisory Council in accordance with section
 17.12 256.042, unless otherwise appropriated by the legislature.

17.13 (o) Beginning in fiscal year 2022 and each year thereafter, funds for county social service
 17.14 agencies and Tribal social service agency initiative projects under paragraph (m) and grant
 17.15 funds specified by the Opiate Epidemic Response Advisory Council under paragraph (n)
 17.16 may be distributed on a calendar year basis.

17.17 (p) Notwithstanding section 16A.28, subdivision 3, funds appropriated in paragraphs
 17.18 (c), (d), (e), (g), (m), and (n) are available for three years after the funds are appropriated.

17.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2026.

17.20 Sec. 8. Laws 2024, chapter 117, section 22, is amended to read:

17.21 **Sec. 22. APPROPRIATIONS; MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY**
 17.22 **PRESERVATION AND CHILD WELFARE DISPROPORTIONALITY ACT.**

17.23 (a) \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the
 17.24 commissioner of human services for grants to Hennepin and Ramsey Counties to implement
 17.25 the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality
 17.26 Act phase-in program. Of this amount, \$2,500,000 must be provided to Hennepin County
 17.27 and \$2,500,000 must be provided to Ramsey County. This is a onetime appropriation and
 17.28 is available until ~~June 30~~ December 31, 2026.

17.29 (b) \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the
 17.30 commissioner of human services for the African American and disproportionately represented
 17.31 family preservation grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693.

18.1 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.98, subdivision 14, the amount for
18.2 administrative costs under this paragraph is \$0.

18.3 (c) \$2,367,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the
18.4 commissioner of human services to implement the African American Family Preservation
18.5 and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act. The base for this appropriation is \$3,251,000 in
18.6 fiscal year 2026 and \$3,110,000 in fiscal year 2027.

18.7 Sec. 9. Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 3, article 20, section 18, is amended to
18.8 read:

18.9 Sec. 18. GRANT PROGRAMS; HOUSING AND		91,001,000		94,092,000
18.10 SUPPORT SERVICES GRANTS	\$	<u>90,169,000</u>	\$	<u>93,260,000</u>

18.11 **Subdivision 1. Family Supportive Housing Grant**
18.12 **Program**

18.13 \$700,000 in fiscal year 2026 is for the family
18.14 supportive housing grant program. This is a
18.15 onetime appropriation and is available until
18.16 June 30, 2027.

18.17 **Subd. 2. Grant for Catholic Charities Homeless**
18.18 **Elders Program**

18.19 \$959,000 in fiscal year 2026 is for a grant to
18.20 Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
18.21 for the homeless elders program that helps
18.22 homeless, isolated, and low-income older
18.23 adults to move into stable housing. This is a
18.24 onetime appropriation and is available until
18.25 June 30, 2027.

18.26 **Subd. 3. The Bridge for Youth**

18.27 \$250,000 in fiscal year 2026 is for a grant to
18.28 The Bridge for Youth to predesign a new
18.29 multiuse facility in Hennepin County. The
18.30 predesign of the new facility must support
18.31 future shelter and housing infrastructure
18.32 expansion in Hennepin County for
18.33 unaccompanied homeless youth and young
18.34 families experiencing homelessness. This is a

19.1 onetime appropriation and is available until
19.2 June 30, 2027.

19.3 **Subd. 4. Base Level Adjustment**

19.4 The general fund base for this section is
19.5 ~~\$96,726,000~~ \$95,894,000 in fiscal year 2028
19.6 and ~~\$96,726,000~~ \$95,894,000 in fiscal year
19.7 2029.

19.8 Sec. 10. Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 10, article 10, section 9, subdivision 2,
19.9 is amended to read:

19.10 Subd. 2. **Kindergarten entry assessment.** For the kindergarten entry assessment under
19.11 Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.162:

19.12		<u>2,357,000</u>		
19.13	\$	<u>2,076,000</u>	2026
19.14		<u>1,743,000</u>		
19.15	\$	<u>1,462,000</u>	2027

19.16 **Sec. 11. APPROPRIATION; MODERNIZED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.**

19.17 \$362,000 in fiscal year 2027 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
19.18 of human services to support the development and implementation of modernized information
19.19 technology solutions. The general fund base for this appropriation is \$724,000 in fiscal year
19.20 2028 and \$724,000 in fiscal year 2029.

19.21 **Sec. 12. BASE ADJUSTMENT; SNAP COST SHARING.**

19.22 The general fund base for the commissioner of children, youth, and families for
19.23 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit cost sharing under Minnesota Statutes,
19.24 section 142F.05, subdivision 5, is \$71,239,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$96,735,000 in fiscal
19.25 year 2029.

19.26 **Sec. 13. CANCELLATION.**

19.27 \$1,000,000 of the appropriation in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund for the
19.28 establishment of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families under Laws 2023, chapter
19.29 70, article 20, section 12, paragraph (b), is canceled to the general fund on June 30, 2026.

20.1 Sec. 14. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

20.2 This article is effective the day following final enactment unless otherwise indicated.

APPENDIX
Article locations for 26-07869

ARTICLE 1 DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES..... Page.Ln 1.12
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
ARTICLE 2 APPROPRIATIONS..... Page.Ln 12.6