

DCT 2026 Budget Policy Bill Summary

Transfer Authority to Accept Gifts for Patient's in DCT's Care

When DCT became an independent agency from the Department of Human Services (DHS) in July 2025, the statutory authority to accept gifts on behalf of patients did not transfer along with it, creating a legal gap that prevents DCT from receiving donations intended for patient benefit. The proposal amends Minnesota Statutes section 15.43 to transfer gift acceptance authority from the DHS Commissioner to the DCT Executive Board, reinstating the explicit authority DCT previously held while maintaining all existing safeguards. This technical correction ensures DCT can continue accepting charitable contributions that support therapeutic programs and patient quality of life, while aligning statutory language with the agency's current independent organizational structure.

Authorization for DCT to Use Security Body Scanners

This proposal extends the existing exemption for correctional and detention facilities to include secure treatment facilities operated by DCT. The change would allow DCT security employees to operate security body scanners without meeting statutory examination and inspection requirements that apply to medical professionals using x-ray machines that are more technical and powerful than security body scanners. The scanners would be used sparingly when there is suspected contraband, not for routine searches. In developing this proposal, DCT consulted with other state agencies on key operational and safety issues as well as the suggested statutory language.

Extend Pilot to Help County Jails with Mentally Ill Patients

A 2024 legislative appropriation of \$2.387 million funded a two-year DCT pilot program to help county jails administer psychotropic medications to incarcerated individuals with serious mental illness, but the funding expires June 30, 2026, before the program can fully achieve its goals. The proposal extends the pilot through June 30, 2027, using existing carryover funds, allowing DCT to continue providing education, technical assistance, and support on medication protocols with no new budget request. The extension would allow the program to expand from nine contracted counties to an estimated 25+ participants, complete additional training, and gather sufficient data to evaluate the program's effectiveness and its impact on jail-to-DCT admissions.