

**Subject** Sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation

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**Date** March 10, 2022

### Overview

In 2013, the state enacted safe harbor for exploited youth and the regional navigator grant program. The safe harbor for exploited youth program establishes a director of child sex trafficking prevention at the Department of Health and establishes a program to provide grants for regional navigators serving specific regions of the state to coordinate resources and services for sexually exploited youth.

This bill provides guidance and restrictions regarding funding used for the safe harbor for sexually exploited youth. It also requires the commissioner of health to perform a prevalence study on survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking. This bill appropriates money to fund the prevalence study, to fund street outreach and housing for sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation, to fund the safe harbor for exploited youth, and to fund the regional navigator grant program.

### Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <b>Funds.</b><br>Amends § 145.4716, by adding subd. 4. Restricts funds appropriated to safe harbor for sexually exploited youth to statutorily authorized activities. Prohibits creation of restrictions or criteria for the program beyond those set in statute. Requires prioritization of providing trauma-informed, culturally inclusive services. |
| 2 | <b>Sexual exploitation and trafficking study.</b><br>Requires the commissioner of health to perform a prevalence study on survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Requires the commissioner to report on the study to the legislature by June 30, 2024.  |

Section	Description
3	<p><b>Appropriation; sexual exploitation and trafficking study.</b></p> <p>Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of health to perform a prevalence study on survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking. This money is available until June 30, 2024.</p>
4	<p><b>Appropriations; sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Commissioner of human services.</b> Appropriates \$9,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for safe harbor grants to fund street outreach and housing programs for sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation. Adds this appropriation to the base.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Commissioner of health.</b> Appropriates \$9,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for grants to fund supportive services under safe harbor for sexually exploited youth. Adds this appropriation to the base.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Safe harbor regional navigators.</b> Appropriates \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for safe harbor regional navigators. Adds this appropriation to the base.</p>



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