

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 2929, the delete everything amendment
1.2 (H2929DE2), as follows:

1.3 Page 116, after line 28, insert:

1.4 **"ARTICLE 3**
1.5 **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES POLICY**

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.10, subdivision 18, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 18. **Adoption agency; additional requirements.** In addition to the other
1.8 requirements of this section, an individual or organization applying for a license to place
1.9 children for adoption must:

1.10 (1) incorporate as a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A or a nonprofit limited
1.11 liability company under chapter 322C;

1.12 (2) file with the application for licensure a copy of the disclosure form required under
1.13 section 259.37, subdivision 2;

1.14 (3) provide evidence that a bond has been obtained and will be continuously maintained
1.15 throughout the entire operating period of the agency, to cover the cost of transfer of records
1.16 to and storage of records by the agency which has agreed, according to rule established by
1.17 the commissioner, to receive the applicant agency's records if the applicant agency voluntarily
1.18 or involuntarily ceases operation and fails to provide for proper transfer of the records. The
1.19 bond must be made in favor of the agency which has agreed to receive the records; and

1.20 (4) submit a financial review completed by an accountant to the commissioner each year
1.21 the license is renewed as required under section 142B.05, subdivision 1.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245C.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.2 Subdivision 1. **Licensed programs; other child care programs.** (a) The commissioner
2.3 shall conduct a background study of an individual required to be studied under section
2.4 245C.03, subdivision 1, at least upon application for initial license for all license types.

2.5 (b) The commissioner shall conduct a background study of an individual required to be
2.6 studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, including a child care background study
2.7 subject as defined in section 245C.02, subdivision 6a, in a family child care program, licensed
2.8 child care center, certified license-exempt child care center, or legal nonlicensed child care
2.9 provider, on a schedule determined by the commissioner. Except as provided in section
2.10 245C.05, subdivision 5a, a child care background study must include submission of
2.11 fingerprints for a national criminal history record check and a review of the information
2.12 under section 245C.08. A background study for a child care program must be repeated
2.13 within five years from the most recent study conducted under this paragraph.

2.14 (c) ~~At reauthorization or~~ When a new background study is needed under section 142E.16,
2.15 subdivision 2, for a legal nonlicensed child care provider authorized under chapter 142E:

2.16 (1) for a background study affiliated with a legal nonlicensed child care provider, the
2.17 individual shall provide information required under section 245C.05, subdivision 1,
2.18 paragraphs (a), (b), and (d), to the commissioner and be fingerprinted and photographed
2.19 under section 245C.05, subdivision 5; and

2.20 (2) the commissioner shall verify the information received under clause (1) and submit
2.21 the request in NETStudy 2.0 to complete the background study.

2.22 (d) At reapplication for a family child care license:

2.23 (1) for a background study affiliated with a licensed family child care center, the
2.24 individual shall provide information required under section 245C.05, subdivision 1,
2.25 paragraphs (a), (b), and (d), to the county agency, and be fingerprinted and photographed
2.26 under section 245C.05, subdivision 5;

2.27 (2) the county agency shall verify the information received under clause (1) and forward
2.28 the information to the commissioner and submit the request in NETStudy 2.0 to complete
2.29 the background study; and

2.30 (3) the background study conducted by the commissioner under this paragraph must
2.31 include a review of the information required under section 245C.08.

3.1 (e) The commissioner is not required to conduct a study of an individual at the time of
3.2 reapplication for a license if the individual's background study was completed by the
3.3 commissioner of human services and the following conditions are met:

3.4 (1) a study of the individual was conducted either at the time of initial licensure or when
3.5 the individual became affiliated with the license holder;

3.6 (2) the individual has been continuously affiliated with the license holder since the last
3.7 study was conducted; and

3.8 (3) the last study of the individual was conducted on or after October 1, 1995.

3.9 (f) The commissioner of human services shall conduct a background study of an
3.10 individual specified under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clauses (2) to (6),
3.11 who is newly affiliated with a child foster family setting license holder:

3.12 (1) the county or private agency shall collect and forward to the commissioner the
3.13 information required under section 245C.05, subdivisions 1 and 5, when the child foster
3.14 family setting applicant or license holder resides in the home where child foster care services
3.15 are provided; and

3.16 (2) the background study conducted by the commissioner of human services under this
3.17 paragraph must include a review of the information required under section 245C.08,
3.18 subdivisions 1, 3, and 4.

3.19 (g) The commissioner shall conduct a background study of an individual specified under
3.20 section 245C.03, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clauses (2) to (6), who is newly affiliated
3.21 with an adult foster care or family adult day services and with a family child care license
3.22 holder or a legal nonlicensed child care provider authorized under chapter 142E and:

3.23 (1) except as provided in section 245C.05, subdivision 5a, the county shall collect and
3.24 forward to the commissioner the information required under section 245C.05, subdivision
3.25 1, paragraphs (a) and (b), and subdivision 5, paragraph (b), for background studies conducted
3.26 by the commissioner for all family adult day services, for adult foster care when the adult
3.27 foster care license holder resides in the adult foster care residence, and for family child care
3.28 and legal nonlicensed child care authorized under chapter 142E;

3.29 (2) the license holder shall collect and forward to the commissioner the information
3.30 required under section 245C.05, subdivisions 1, paragraphs (a) and (b); and 5, paragraphs
3.31 (a) and (b), for background studies conducted by the commissioner for adult foster care
3.32 when the license holder does not reside in the adult foster care residence; and

4.1 (3) the background study conducted by the commissioner under this paragraph must
4.2 include a review of the information required under section 245C.08, subdivision 1, paragraph
4.3 (a), and subdivisions 3 and 4.

4.4 (h) Applicants for licensure, license holders, and other entities as provided in this chapter
4.5 must submit completed background study requests to the commissioner using the electronic
4.6 system known as NETStudy before individuals specified in section 245C.03, subdivision
4.7 1, begin positions allowing direct contact in any licensed program.

4.8 (i) For an individual who is not on the entity's active roster, the entity must initiate a
4.9 new background study through NETStudy when:

4.10 (1) an individual returns to a position requiring a background study following an absence
4.11 of 120 or more consecutive days; or

4.12 (2) a program that discontinued providing licensed direct contact services for 120 or
4.13 more consecutive days begins to provide direct contact licensed services again.

4.14 The license holder shall maintain a copy of the notification provided to the commissioner
4.15 under this paragraph in the program's files. If the individual's disqualification was previously
4.16 set aside for the license holder's program and the new background study results in no new
4.17 information that indicates the individual may pose a risk of harm to persons receiving
4.18 services from the license holder, the previous set-aside shall remain in effect.

4.19 (j) For purposes of this section, a physician licensed under chapter 147, advanced practice
4.20 registered nurse licensed under chapter 148, or physician assistant licensed under chapter
4.21 147A is considered to be continuously affiliated upon the license holder's receipt from the
4.22 commissioner of health or human services of the physician's, advanced practice registered
4.23 nurse's, or physician assistant's background study results.

4.24 (k) For purposes of family child care, a substitute caregiver must receive repeat
4.25 background studies at the time of each license renewal.

4.26 (l) A repeat background study at the time of license renewal is not required if the family
4.27 child care substitute caregiver's background study was completed by the commissioner on
4.28 or after October 1, 2017, and the substitute caregiver is on the license holder's active roster
4.29 in NETStudy 2.0.

4.30 (m) Before and after school programs authorized under chapter 142E, are exempt from
4.31 the background study requirements under section 123B.03, for an employee for whom a
4.32 background study under this chapter has been completed.

5.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 259.83, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

5.2 Subdivision 1. **Services provided.** (a) Agencies shall provide assistance and counseling
5.3 services upon receiving a request for current information from adoptive parents, birth parents,
5.4 adopted persons aged 18 years of age and older, or adult siblings of adopted persons. The
5.5 agency shall contact the other adult persons or the adoptive parents of a minor child in a
5.6 personal and confidential manner to determine whether there is a desire to receive or share
5.7 information or to have contact. If there is such a desire, the agency shall provide the services
5.8 requested. The agency shall complete the search request within six months of the request
5.9 being made. If the agency is unable to complete the search request within the specified time
5.10 frame, the agency shall inform the requester of the status of the request and include a
5.11 reasonable estimate of when the request can be completed.

5.12 (b) Upon a request for assistance or services from an adoptive parent of a minor child,
5.13 birth parent, or an adopted person 18 years of age or older, the agency must inform the
5.14 person:

5.15 (1) about the right of an adopted person to request and obtain a copy of the adopted
5.16 person's original birth record at the age and circumstances specified in section ~~144.2253~~
5.17 144.2252; and

5.18 (2) about the right of the birth parent named on the adopted person's original birth record
5.19 to file a contact preference form with the state registrar pursuant to section 144.2253.

5.20 When making or supervising an adoptive placement, the agency must provide in writing to
5.21 the birth parents listed on the original birth record the information required under this
5.22 paragraph and section 259.37, subdivision 2, clause (7).

5.23 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.67, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

5.24 Subdivision 1. **Preference for permanency placement with a relative.** Consistent with
5.25 section 260C.513, if an African American or disproportionately represented child cannot
5.26 be returned to the child's parent, permanency placement with a relative is preferred. The
5.27 court shall consider the requirements of and responsibilities under section 260.012, paragraph
5.28 (a), and, if possible and if requirements under section 260C.515, subdivision 4, are met,
5.29 transfer permanent legal and physical custody of the child to:

5.30 (1) a noncustodial parent under section 260C.515, subdivision 4, if the child cannot
5.31 return to the care of the parent or custodian from whom the child was removed or who had
5.32 legal custody at the time that the child was placed in foster care; or

6.1 (2) a willing and able relative, according to the requirements of section 260C.515,
6.2 subdivision 4. When the responsible social services agency is the petitioner, prior to the
6.3 court ordering a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative, the responsible
6.4 social services agency must inform the relative of Northstar kinship assistance benefits and
6.5 eligibility requirements and of the relative's ability to apply for benefits on behalf of the
6.6 child under ~~chapter 256N~~ sections 142A.60 to 142A.612.

6.7 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.190, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.8 Subdivision 1. **Placement.** (a) An agency with legal responsibility for a child under
6.9 section 260C.178, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), or legal custody of a child under section
6.10 260C.201, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2), may colocate a child with a parent
6.11 who is receiving services in a licensed residential family-based substance use disorder
6.12 treatment program for up to 12 months.

6.13 (b) During the child's placement under paragraph (a), the agency: (1) may visit the child
6.14 as the agency deems necessary and appropriate; (2) shall continue to have access to
6.15 information under section 260C.208; and (3) shall continue to provide appropriate services
6.16 to both the parent and the child.

6.17 (c) The agency may terminate the child's placement under paragraph (a) to protect the
6.18 child's health, safety, or welfare and may remove the child to foster care without a prior
6.19 court order or authorization.

6.20 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.212, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

6.21 Subd. 4a. **Monthly caseworker visits.** (a) Every child in foster care or on a trial home
6.22 visit shall be visited by the child's caseworker or another person who has responsibility for
6.23 visitation of the child on a monthly basis, with the majority of visits occurring in the child's
6.24 residence. The responsible social services agency may designate another person responsible
6.25 for monthly case visits. For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

6.26 (1) "visit" is defined as a face-to-face contact between a child and the child's caseworker.
6.27 For a youth 18 years of age or older, a visit may be conducted via video conference with
6.28 the youth's informed consent;

6.29 (2) "visited on a monthly basis" is defined as at least one visit per calendar month;

6.30 (3) "the child's caseworker" is defined as the person who has responsibility for managing
6.31 the child's foster care placement case as assigned by the responsible social services agency;

7.1 (4) "another person" means the professional staff whom the responsible social services
7.2 agency has assigned in the out-of-home placement plan or case plan. Another person must
7.3 be professionally trained to assess the child's safety, permanency, well-being, and case
7.4 progress. The agency may not designate the guardian ad litem, the child foster care provider,
7.5 residential facility staff, or a qualified individual as defined in section 260C.007,
7.6 subdivision 26b, as another person; and

7.7 (5) "the child's residence" is defined as the home where the child is residing, and can
7.8 include the foster home, child care institution, or the home from which the child was removed
7.9 if the child is on a trial home visit.

7.10 (b) Caseworker visits shall be of sufficient substance and duration to address issues
7.11 pertinent to case planning and service delivery to ensure the safety, permanency, and
7.12 well-being of the child, including whether the child is enrolled and attending school as
7.13 required by law.

7.14 (c) Every effort shall be made by the responsible social services agency and professional
7.15 staff to have the monthly visit with the child outside the presence of the child's parents,
7.16 foster parents, or facility staff. There may be situations related to the child's needs when a
7.17 caseworker visit cannot occur with the child alone. The reason the caseworker visit occurred
7.18 in the presence of others must be documented in the case record and may include:

7.19 (1) that the child exhibits intense emotion or behavior indicating that visiting without
7.20 the presence of the parent, foster parent, or facility staff would be traumatic for the child;

7.21 (2) that despite a caseworker's efforts, the child declines to visit with the caseworker
7.22 outside the presence of the parent, foster parent, or facility staff; and

7.23 (3) that the child has a specific developmental delay, physical limitation, incapacity,
7.24 medical device, or significant medical need, such that the parent, foster parent, or facility
7.25 staff is required to be present with the child during the visit.

7.26 ARTICLE 4

7.27 ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

7.28 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142G.18, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

7.29 Subdivision 1. **Person convicted of drug offenses.** (a) An individual who has been
7.30 convicted of a felony level drug offense during the previous ten years from the date of
7.31 application or recertification ~~is subject to the following:~~ may, if otherwise eligible, receive
7.32 MFIP benefits.

8.1 ~~(1) Benefits for the entire assistance unit must be paid in vendor form for shelter and~~
8.2 ~~utilities during any time the applicant is part of the assistance unit.~~

8.3 ~~(2) The convicted applicant or participant may be subject to random drug testing.~~
8.4 ~~Following any positive test for an illegal controlled substance, the county must provide~~
8.5 ~~information about substance use disorder treatment programs to the applicant or participant.~~

8.6 (b) Applicants requesting only SNAP benefits or participants receiving only SNAP
8.7 benefits, who have been convicted of a felony-level drug offense during the previous ten
8.8 years from the date of application or recertification may, if otherwise eligible, receive SNAP
8.9 benefits. ~~The convicted applicant or participant may be subject to random drug testing.~~
8.10 ~~Following a positive test for an illegal controlled substance, the county must provide~~
8.11 ~~information about substance use disorder treatment programs to the applicant or participant.~~

8.12 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "drug offense" means a conviction that occurred
8.13 during the previous ten years from the date of application or recertification of sections
8.14 152.021 to 152.025, 152.0261, 152.0262, 152.096, or 152.137. Drug offense also means a
8.15 conviction in another jurisdiction of the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled
8.16 substance, or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses, if the conviction occurred during
8.17 the previous ten years from the date of application or recertification and the conviction is
8.18 for a crime that would be a felony if committed in Minnesota.

8.19 (d) This subdivision does not apply for convictions or positive test results related to
8.20 cannabis, marijuana, or tetrahydrocannabinols.

8.21 **Sec. 2. REPEALER.**

8.22 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 256D.024, subdivision 1, is repealed.

8.23 **ARTICLE 5**

8.24 **CHILD CARE**

8.25 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.16, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.26 Subdivision 1. **Contents of correction orders and conditional licenses.** (a) If the
8.27 commissioner finds that the applicant or license holder has failed to comply with an
8.28 applicable law or rule and this failure does not imminently endanger the health, safety, or
8.29 rights of the persons served by the program, the commissioner may issue a correction order
8.30 and an order of conditional license to the applicant or license holder. When issuing a
8.31 conditional license, the commissioner shall consider the nature, chronicity, or severity of
8.32 the violation of law or rule and the effect of the violation on the health, safety, or rights of

9.1 persons served by the program. The correction order or conditional license must state the
9.2 following in plain language:

9.3 (1) the conditions that constitute a violation of the law or rule;

9.4 (2) whether the conditions were self-reported by the applicant or license holder;

9.5 ~~(2)~~ (3) the specific law or rule violated;

9.6 ~~(3)~~ (4) the time allowed to correct each violation; and

9.7 ~~(4)~~ (5) if a license is made conditional, the length and terms of the conditional license,
9.8 and the reasons for making the license conditional.

9.9 (b) Nothing in this section prohibits the commissioner from proposing a sanction as
9.10 specified in section 142B.18, prior to issuing a correction order or conditional license.

9.11 (c) The commissioner may issue a correction order and an order of conditional license
9.12 to the applicant or license holder through the provider licensing and reporting hub.

9.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 15, 2027.

9.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.16, is amended by adding a subdivision to
9.15 read:

9.16 **Subd. 5a. Posting orders on department website** If the commissioner posts on the
9.17 department's website an order of conditional license or a correction order for a licensed
9.18 family child care provider or child care center, then the summary information posted for
9.19 the order must include, at a minimum, whether the license holder self-reported the conditions
9.20 that constitute the violation of law or rule cited in the order.

9.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 15, 2027.

9.22 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.17, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

9.23 Subdivision 1. **Fix-it ticket.** (a) In lieu of a correction order under section 142B.16, the
9.24 commissioner shall issue a fix-it ticket to a family child care or child care center license
9.25 holder if the commissioner finds that:

9.26 (1) the license holder has failed to comply with a requirement in this chapter or Minnesota
9.27 Rules, chapter 9502 or 9503, that the commissioner determines to be eligible for a fix-it
9.28 ticket;

9.29 (2) the violation does not imminently endanger the health, safety, or rights of the persons
9.30 served by the program;

10.1 (3) the license holder did not receive a fix-it ticket or correction order for the violation
10.2 at the license holder's last licensing inspection;

10.3 (4) the violation can be corrected at the time of inspection or within 48 hours, excluding
10.4 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays; and

10.5 (5) the license holder corrects the violation at the time of inspection or agrees to correct
10.6 the violation within 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

10.7 (b) The fix-it ticket must state:

10.8 (1) the conditions that constitute a violation of the law or rule;

10.9 (2) whether the conditions were self-reported by the license holder;

10.10 ~~(2)~~ (3) the specific law or rule violated; and

10.11 ~~(3)~~ (4) that the violation was corrected at the time of inspection or must be corrected
10.12 within 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

10.13 (c) The commissioner shall not publicly publish a fix-it ticket on the department's website.

10.14 (d) Within 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, of receiving a fix-it
10.15 ticket, the license holder must correct the violation and within one week submit evidence
10.16 to the licensing agency that the violation was corrected.

10.17 (e) If the violation is not corrected at the time of inspection or within 48 hours, excluding
10.18 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, or the evidence submitted is insufficient to establish that
10.19 the license holder corrected the violation, the commissioner must issue a correction order
10.20 for the violation of Minnesota law or rule identified in the fix-it ticket according to section
10.21 142B.16.

10.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 15, 2027.

10.23 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 142B.171, subdivision 2, is amended
10.24 to read:

10.25 Subd. 2. **Documented technical assistance.** (a) In lieu of a correction order under section
10.26 142B.16, the commissioner shall provide documented technical assistance to a family child
10.27 care or child care center license holder if the commissioner finds that:

10.28 (1) the license holder has failed to comply with a requirement in this chapter or Minnesota
10.29 Rules, chapter 9502 or 9503, that the commissioner determines to be low risk as determined
10.30 by the child care weighted risk system;

11.1 (2) the noncompliance does not imminently endanger the health, safety, or rights of the
 11.2 persons served by the program; and

11.3 (3) the license holder did not receive documented technical assistance or a correction
 11.4 order for the same violation at the license holder's most recent annual licensing inspection.

11.5 (b) Documented technical assistance must include communication from the commissioner
 11.6 to the license holder that:

11.7 (1) states the conditions that constitute a violation of a law or rule;

11.8 (2) identifies whether the conditions were self-reported by the license holder;

11.9 ~~(2)~~ (3) references the specific law or rule violated; and

11.10 ~~(3)~~ (4) explains remedies for correcting the violation.

11.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 15, 2027.

11.12 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.18, is amended by adding a subdivision to
 11.13 read:

11.14 **Subd. 6a. Indication of self-report.** (a) For an order of license suspension, temporary
 11.15 immediate suspension, a fine, or revocation issued by the commissioner to a licensed family
 11.16 child care provider or child care center under this section, the order must indicate whether
 11.17 the conditions that constitute the violation of law or rule were self-reported by the license
 11.18 holder.

11.19 (b) If the commissioner posts on the department's website an order of license suspension,
 11.20 temporary immediate suspension, a fine, or revocation for a licensed family child care
 11.21 provider or child care center, then the summary information posted for the order must
 11.22 include, at a minimum, whether the license holder self-reported the conditions that constitute
 11.23 the violation of law or rule cited in the order.

11.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 15, 2027.

11.25 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.61, is amended by adding a subdivision to
 11.26 read:

11.27 **Subd. 3. Education on recognizing physical abuse.** (a) Upon a child's enrollment, a
 11.28 licensed child care center and family child care provider must provide parents and caregivers
 11.29 with written materials approved by the commissioner according to paragraph (c) on how to
 11.30 recognize the signs of physical abuse and neglect in infants and children and how to report

12.1 suspected physical abuse or neglect. The parent or caregiver enrolling the child must sign
12.2 an attestation that they received the written materials.

12.3 (b) A licensed child care center and family child care provider must post and maintain
12.4 a poster approved by the commissioner according to paragraph (c). The poster must be
12.5 posted in a place that is visible to the people receiving services and all visitors to the facility.

12.6 (c) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of health, must:

12.7 (1) approve written materials to educate parents and caregivers on how to recognize the
12.8 signs of physical abuse and neglect in infants and children and how to report suspected
12.9 physical abuse or neglect. At a minimum, the materials must be available in English and
12.10 the three most commonly spoken non-English languages in the state as determined by the
12.11 state demographer for the previous calendar year;

12.12 (2) approve a poster to educate parents and caregivers on how to recognize the signs of
12.13 physical abuse and neglect in infants and children and how to report suspected physical
12.14 abuse or neglect; and

12.15 (3) review and update the written materials and poster every five years.

12.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 15, 2027.

12.17 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.65, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

12.18 Subd. 7. **Abusive head trauma training.** (a) Before caring for children under school
12.19 age, the director, staff persons, substitutes, and unsupervised volunteers must receive training
12.20 on the risk of abusive head trauma during orientation and each calendar year thereafter.

12.21 (b) Abusive head trauma training under this subdivision must be at least one-half hour
12.22 in length. At a minimum, the training must address the risk factors related to shaking infants
12.23 and young children, means to reduce the risk of abusive head trauma in child care, and
12.24 license holder communication with parents regarding reducing the risk of abusive head
12.25 trauma. The training must be interactive and must not consist only of reading or viewing
12.26 information.

12.27 (c) Except if completed during orientation, training taken under this subdivision may
12.28 be used to meet the in-service training requirements under subdivision 9.

12.29 (d) The commissioner shall make available for viewing a video presentation on the
12.30 dangers associated with shaking infants and young children, which may be used in
12.31 conjunction with the annual training required under paragraph (b).

12.32 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2027.

13.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.70, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

13.2 Subd. 6. **Sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma training.** (a)

13.3 License holders must ensure and document that before the license holder, second adult
13.4 caregivers, substitutes, and helpers assist in the care of infants, they are instructed on the
13.5 standards in section 142B.46 and receive training on reducing the risk of sudden unexpected
13.6 infant death. In addition, license holders must ensure and document that before the license
13.7 holder, second adult caregivers, substitutes, and helpers assist in the care of infants and
13.8 children under school age, they receive training on reducing the risk of abusive head trauma
13.9 from shaking infants and young children. The training in this subdivision may be provided
13.10 as initial training under subdivision 1 or ongoing annual training under subdivision 8.

13.11 (b) Sudden unexpected infant death reduction training required under this subdivision
13.12 must, at a minimum, address the risk factors related to sudden unexpected infant death,
13.13 means of reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death in child care, and license
13.14 holder communication with parents regarding reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant
13.15 death.

13.16 (c) Abusive head trauma training required under this subdivision must, at a minimum,
13.17 address the risk factors related to shaking infants and young children, means of reducing
13.18 the risk of abusive head trauma in child care, and license holder communication with parents
13.19 regarding reducing the risk of abusive head trauma. The training must be interactive and
13.20 must not consist only of reading or viewing information.

13.21 (d) Training for family and group family child care providers must be developed by the
13.22 commissioner in conjunction with the Minnesota Sudden Infant Death Center and approved
13.23 by the Minnesota Center for Professional Development. Sudden unexpected infant death
13.24 reduction training and abusive head trauma training may be provided in a single course of
13.25 no more than two hours in length.

13.26 (e) Sudden unexpected infant death reduction training and abusive head trauma training
13.27 required under this subdivision must be completed in person or as allowed under subdivision
13.28 11, clause (1) or (2), at least once every two years. On the years when the individual receiving
13.29 training is not receiving training in person or as allowed under subdivision 11, clause (1)
13.30 or (2), the individual receiving training in accordance with this subdivision must receive
13.31 sudden unexpected infant death reduction training and abusive head trauma training through
13.32 a video of no more than one hour in length. The video must be developed or approved by
13.33 the commissioner.

14.1 (f) An individual who is related to the license holder as defined in section 142B.01,
 14.2 subdivision 15, and who is involved only in the care of the license holder's own infant or
 14.3 child under school age and who is not designated to be a second adult caregiver, helper, or
 14.4 substitute for the licensed program, is exempt from the sudden unexpected infant death and
 14.5 abusive head trauma training.

14.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2027.

14.7 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142C.12, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

14.8 Subd. 3. **Abusive head trauma.** A certified center that cares for a child under school
 14.9 age must ensure that the director and all staff persons, including substitutes and unsupervised
 14.10 volunteers, receive training on abusive head trauma before assisting in the care of a child
 14.11 under school age. The training must be interactive and must not consist only of reading or
 14.12 viewing information.

14.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2027.

14.14 **ARTICLE 6**

14.15 **CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE**

14.16 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 124D.19, is amended by adding a subdivision
 14.17 to read:

14.18 Subd. 13a. **School-age care programs; priority for children in foster care.** Each
 14.19 district operating a school-age care, youth after-school enrichment, or other before- and
 14.20 after-school community education program under this section must ensure that children in
 14.21 foster care, as defined under section 260C.007, subdivision 18, or in a voluntary or
 14.22 involuntary foster care placement under the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act
 14.23 receive priority for enrollment in community education programs. In order to give a child
 14.24 priority under this paragraph, the district may require a letter or other documentation from
 14.25 a responsible social services agency or child-placing agency verifying that the child is in
 14.26 foster care. The district must process a verification letter or other documentation within five
 14.27 business days of receiving the letter or documentation.

14.28 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.43, is amended to read:

14.29 **~~142A.43 GRANTS-IN-AID~~ GRANTS TO YOUTH INTERVENTION PROGRAMS.**

14.30 Subdivision 1. **Grants.** (a) The commissioner ~~may~~ must make grants to nonprofit agencies
 14.31 administering youth intervention programs in communities where the programs are or may

15.1 be established. Grants under this section are limited to available appropriations. No grant
 15.2 may exceed \$75,000.

15.3 (b) "Youth intervention program" means a nonresidential community-based program
 15.4 providing advocacy, education, counseling, mentoring, and referral services to youth and
 15.5 their families experiencing personal, familial, school, legal, or chemical problems with the
 15.6 goal of resolving the present problems and preventing the occurrence of the problems in
 15.7 the future. The intent of the youth intervention program is to provide an ongoing stable
 15.8 funding source to community-based early intervention programs for youth. Program design
 15.9 may be different for the grantees depending on youth service needs of the communities
 15.10 being served.

15.11 (c) A grant under this section is contingent upon the agency obtaining local matching
 15.12 money equal to the amount of the grant from the community in which the youth intervention
 15.13 program is established. The matching requirement is intended to leverage the investment
 15.14 of state and community money in supporting the efforts of the grantees to provide early
 15.15 intervention services to youth and their families.

15.16 Subd. 2. **Applications.** Applications for a ~~grant-in-aid shall~~ grant must be made submitted
 15.17 by the administering agency to the commissioner. The commissioner must provide the
 15.18 application form, procedures for submitting application forms, criteria for review of the
 15.19 application, and a description of the kinds of contributions in addition to cash that qualify
 15.20 as local matching money.

15.21 ~~The grant-in-aid is contingent upon the agency having obtained from the community in~~
 15.22 ~~which the youth intervention program is established local matching money equal to the~~
 15.23 ~~amount of the grant that is sought. The matching requirement is intended to leverage the~~
 15.24 ~~investment of state and community dollars in supporting the efforts of the grantees to provide~~
 15.25 ~~early intervention services to youth and their families.~~

15.26 ~~The commissioner shall provide the application form, procedures for making application~~
 15.27 ~~form, criteria for review of the application, and kinds of contributions in addition to cash~~
 15.28 ~~that qualify as local matching money. No grant to any agency may exceed \$75,000.~~

15.29 Subd. 3. **Grant allocation formula** Youth Intervention Programs Association
 15.30 grant. Up to ~~five~~ six percent of the ~~appropriations to the grants-in-aid to the youth~~
 15.31 ~~intervention program may~~ appropriation for grants under this section must be used for a
 15.32 grant to the Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association for ~~expenses in~~ providing
 15.33 collaboration, program development, professional development training, technical assistance,
 15.34 and tracking, and analyzing, and reporting outcome data for the community-based grantees

16.1 of the program. The Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association is not required
 16.2 to meet the ~~match obligation~~ matching requirement under subdivision ~~2~~ 1, paragraph (c).

16.3 Subd. 4. **Report.** On or before March 31 of each year, the Minnesota Youth Intervention
 16.4 Programs Association shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
 16.5 committees and divisions with jurisdiction over ~~public safety policy and finance~~ children
 16.6 and youth on the implementation, use, and administration of the grant program ~~created~~
 16.7 under this section. The report shall include information sent by agencies administering youth
 16.8 intervention programs to the Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs Association ~~and the~~
 16.9 ~~Office of Justice Programs~~. At a minimum, the report must identify:

16.10 (1) the grant recipients;

16.11 (2) the geographic location of the grant recipients;

16.12 (3) the total number of individuals served by all grant recipients, disaggregated by race,
 16.13 ethnicity, and gender;

16.14 (4) the total number of individuals served by all grant recipients who successfully
 16.15 completed programming, disaggregated by age, race, ethnicity, and gender;

16.16 (5) the total amount of money awarded in grants and the total amount remaining to be
 16.17 awarded from each appropriation;

16.18 (6) the amount of money granted to each recipient;

16.19 (7) ~~grantee~~ grant recipient workplan objectives;

16.20 (8) how the grant was used based on ~~grantee~~ grant recipient quarterly narrative reports
 16.21 and financial reports; and

16.22 (9) summarized relevant youth intervention program outcome survey data measuring
 16.23 the developmental assets of participants, based on Search Institute's Developmental Assets
 16.24 Framework.

16.25 ~~Subd. 5. **Administrative costs.** The commissioner may use up to ten percent of the~~
 16.26 ~~biennial appropriation for grants-in-aid to the youth intervention program to pay costs~~
 16.27 ~~incurred by the department in administering the youth intervention program.~~

16.28 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.30, is amended by adding a subdivision to
 16.29 read:

16.30 Subd. 9a. **Child foster care licensing agency information to applicants.** In addition
 16.31 to the requirements in Minnesota Rules, part 9543.0040, subpart 1, the licensing agency

17.1 must provide information to child foster care license applicants on the background study
17.2 process and the procedure for reconsideration of a background study disqualification.

17.3 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142D.05, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

17.4 Subd. 8. **Eligibility.** (a) A child is eligible to participate in a school readiness program
17.5 if the child:

17.6 (1) is at least three years old on September 1;

17.7 (2) has completed health and developmental screening within 90 days of program
17.8 enrollment under sections 142D.09 to 142D.093; and

17.9 (3) has one or more of the following risk factors:

17.10 (i) qualifies for free or reduced-price meals;

17.11 (ii) is an English learner;

17.12 (iii) is homeless;

17.13 (iv) has an individualized education program (IEP) or standardized written plan;

17.14 (v) is identified, through health and developmental screenings under sections 142D.09
17.15 to 142D.093, with a potential risk factor that may influence learning; ~~or~~

17.16 (vi) is in foster care; or

17.17 (vii) is defined as at risk by the school district.

17.18 (b) The commissioner may require a letter or other documentation from a responsible
17.19 social services agency or child-placing agency for a child eligible under paragraph (a),
17.20 clause (3), item (vi), verifying that the child is in foster care, as defined in section 260C.007,
17.21 subdivision 18, or in a voluntary or involuntary foster care placement under the Minnesota
17.22 Indian Family Preservation Act. The commissioner must process a verification letter or
17.23 other documentation within five business days of receiving the letter or documentation.

17.24 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142D.25, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

17.25 Subd. 3. **Applications; priorities.** (a) The commissioner shall establish application
17.26 timelines and determine the schedule for awarding scholarships that meet the operational
17.27 needs of eligible families and programs.

17.28 (b) The commissioner must give ~~highest~~ equal priority to applications from children
17.29 who:

- 18.1 (1) are not yet four years of age;
- 18.2 (2) have a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school diploma or a course of
18.3 study for a high school equivalency test;
- 18.4 (3) are in foster care;
- 18.5 (4) have been referred as in need of child protection services;
- 18.6 (5) have an incarcerated parent;
- 18.7 (6) are in or have a parent in a substance use treatment program;
- 18.8 (7) are in or have a parent in a mental health treatment program;
- 18.9 (8) have experienced domestic violence;
- 18.10 (9) have an individualized education program or individualized family service plan; or
- 18.11 (10) have experienced homelessness in the last 24 months, as defined under the federal
18.12 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, United States Code, title 42, section 1143a.

18.13 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), beginning July 1, 2025, the commissioner must give
18.14 highest priority to applications from children in families with income equal to or less than
18.15 the rate specified under subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (1), item (i), and within this
18.16 group must prioritize children who meet one or more of the criteria listed in paragraph (b).

18.17 (d) The commissioner may prioritize applications on additional factors, including but
18.18 not limited to availability of funding, family income, geographic location, and whether the
18.19 child's family is on a waiting list for a publicly funded program providing early education
18.20 or child care services.

18.21 (e) The commissioner may require a letter or other documentation from a responsible
18.22 social services agency or child-placing agency for a child receiving priority as a child in
18.23 foster care verifying that the child is in foster care, as defined in section 260C.007,
18.24 subdivision 18, or in a voluntary or involuntary foster care placement under the Minnesota
18.25 Indian Family Preservation Act. The commissioner must process a verification letter or
18.26 other documentation within five business days of receiving the letter or documentation.

18.27 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.04, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

18.28 Subd. 4. **Funding priorities.** (a) In the event that inadequate funding necessitates the
18.29 use of waiting lists, priority for child care assistance under the basic sliding fee assistance
18.30 program shall be determined according to this subdivision.

19.1 (b) First priority must be given to eligible non-MFIP families who do not have a high
19.2 school diploma or commissioner of education-selected high school equivalency certification
19.3 or who need remedial and basic skill courses in order to pursue employment or to pursue
19.4 education leading to employment and who need child care assistance to participate in the
19.5 education program. This includes student parents as defined under section 142E.01,
19.6 subdivision 26. Within this priority, the following subpriorities must be used:

19.7 (1) child care needs of minor parents;

19.8 (2) child care needs of parents under 21 years of age; and

19.9 (3) child care needs of other parents within the priority group described in this paragraph.

19.10 (c) Second priority must be given to families in which at least one parent is a veteran,
19.11 as defined under section 197.447.

19.12 (d) Third priority must be given to eligible foster parents providing care to a child placed
19.13 in a family foster home under section 260C.007, subdivision 16b; eligible relative custodians
19.14 to whom permanent legal and physical custody of a child has been transferred pursuant to
19.15 section 260C.515, subdivision 4; or eligible individuals with whom an Indian child has been
19.16 placed under section 260.773.

19.17 (e) Fourth priority must be given to eligible families who do not meet the specifications
19.18 of paragraph (b), (c), ~~(e)~~ (d), ~~(f)~~, or ~~(g)~~ (g).

19.19 ~~(e)~~ Fourth ~~(f)~~ Fifth priority must be given to families who are eligible for portable basic
19.20 sliding fee assistance through the portability pool under subdivision 10.

19.21 ~~(f)~~ Fifth ~~(g)~~ Sixth priority must be given to eligible families receiving services under
19.22 section 142E.01, subdivision 27, if the parents have completed their MFIP transition year.

19.23 ~~(g)~~ (h) Families under paragraph ~~(f)~~ (g) must be added to the basic sliding fee waiting
19.24 list on the date they complete their transition year under section 142E.01, subdivision 28.

19.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2027.

19.26 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 256B.055, subdivision 17, is amended to read:

19.27 Subd. 17. **Adults who were in foster care at the age of 18, 19, or 20.** (a) Medical
19.28 assistance may be paid for a person under 26 years of age who was in foster care under the
19.29 commissioner's responsibility on the date of attaining 18, 19, or 20 years of age; or receiving
19.30 foster care benefits past 18 years of age under section 260C.451 and who was enrolled in
19.31 medical assistance under the state plan or a waiver of the plan while in foster care, in
19.32 accordance with section 2004 of the Affordable Care Act.

20.1 (b) Medical assistance may be paid for a person under 26 years of age who was in foster
20.2 care and enrolled in any state's Medicaid program as provided by Public Law 115-271,
20.3 section 1002.

20.4 (c) The commissioner shall seek federal waiver approval under United States Code, title
20.5 42, section 1315, to include youth who were in a state's foster care program and who turned
20.6 age 18 prior to January 1, 2023, without regard to potential eligibility under a Medicaid
20.7 mandatory group.

20.8 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.212, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

20.9 Subdivision 1. **Out-of-home placement; plan.** (a) An out-of-home placement plan shall
20.10 be prepared within 30 days after any child is placed in foster care by court order or a
20.11 voluntary placement agreement between the responsible social services agency and the
20.12 child's parent pursuant to section 260C.227 or chapter 260D.

20.13 (b) An out-of-home placement plan means a written document individualized to the
20.14 needs of the child and the child's parents or guardians that is prepared by the responsible
20.15 social services agency jointly with the child's parents or guardians and in consultation with
20.16 the child's guardian ad litem; the child's tribe, if the child is an Indian child; the child's foster
20.17 parent or representative of the foster care facility; and, when appropriate, the child. When
20.18 a child is age 14 or older, the child may include two other individuals on the team preparing
20.19 the child's out-of-home placement plan. The child may select one member of the case
20.20 planning team to be designated as the child's advisor and to advocate with respect to the
20.21 application of the reasonable and prudent parenting standards. The responsible social services
20.22 agency may reject an individual selected by the child if the agency has good cause to believe
20.23 that the individual would not act in the best interest of the child. For a child in voluntary
20.24 foster care for treatment under chapter 260D, preparation of the out-of-home placement
20.25 plan shall additionally include the child's mental health treatment provider. For a child 18
20.26 years of age or older, the responsible social services agency shall involve the child and the
20.27 child's parents as appropriate. As appropriate, the plan shall be:

20.28 (1) submitted to the court for approval under section 260C.178, subdivision 7;

20.29 (2) ordered by the court, either as presented or modified after hearing, under section
20.30 260C.178, subdivision 7, or 260C.201, subdivision 6; and

20.31 (3) signed by the parent or parents or guardian of the child, the child's guardian ad litem,
20.32 a representative of the child's tribe, the responsible social services agency, and, if possible,
20.33 the child.

21.1 (c) The out-of-home placement plan shall be explained by the responsible social services
21.2 agency to all persons involved in the plan's implementation, including the child who has
21.3 signed the plan, and shall set forth:

21.4 (1) a description of the foster care home or facility selected, including how the
21.5 out-of-home placement plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the
21.6 least restrictive, most family-like setting available that is in close proximity to the home of
21.7 the child's parents or guardians when the case plan goal is reunification; and how the
21.8 placement is consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child according to
21.9 the factors under subdivision 2, paragraph (b);

21.10 (2) the specific reasons for the placement of the child in foster care, and when
21.11 reunification is the plan, a description of the problems or conditions in the home of the
21.12 parent or parents that necessitated removal of the child from home and the changes the
21.13 parent or parents must make for the child to safely return home;

21.14 (3) a description of the services offered and provided to prevent removal of the child
21.15 from the home and to reunify the family including:

21.16 (i) the specific actions to be taken by the parent or parents of the child to eliminate or
21.17 correct the problems or conditions identified in clause (2), and the time period during which
21.18 the actions are to be taken; and

21.19 (ii) the reasonable efforts, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts to be made to
21.20 achieve a safe and stable home for the child including social and other supportive services
21.21 to be provided or offered to the parent or parents or guardian of the child, the child, and the
21.22 residential facility during the period the child is in the residential facility;

21.23 (4) a description of any services or resources that were requested by the child or the
21.24 child's parent, guardian, foster parent, or custodian since the date of the child's placement
21.25 in the residential facility, and whether those services or resources were provided and if not,
21.26 the basis for the denial of the services or resources;

21.27 (5) the visitation plan for the parent or parents or guardian, other relatives as defined in
21.28 section 260C.007, subdivision 26b or 27, and siblings of the child if the siblings are not
21.29 placed together in foster care, and whether visitation is consistent with the best interest of
21.30 the child, during the period the child is in foster care;

21.31 (6) when a child cannot return to or be in the care of either parent, documentation of
21.32 steps to finalize adoption as the permanency plan for the child through reasonable efforts
21.33 to place the child for adoption pursuant to section 260C.605. At a minimum, the

22.1 documentation must include consideration of whether adoption is in the best interests of
22.2 the child and child-specific recruitment efforts such as a relative search, consideration of
22.3 relatives for adoptive placement, and the use of state, regional, and national adoption
22.4 exchanges to facilitate orderly and timely placements in and outside of the state. A copy of
22.5 this documentation shall be provided to the court in the review required under section
22.6 260C.317, subdivision 3, paragraph (b);

22.7 (7) when a child cannot return to or be in the care of either parent, documentation of
22.8 steps to finalize the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative as the
22.9 permanency plan for the child. This documentation must support the requirements of the
22.10 kinship placement agreement under section 142A.605 and must include the reasonable
22.11 efforts used to determine that it is not appropriate for the child to return home or be adopted,
22.12 and reasons why permanent placement with a relative through a Northstar kinship assistance
22.13 arrangement is in the child's best interest; how the child meets the eligibility requirements
22.14 for Northstar kinship assistance payments; agency efforts to discuss adoption with the child's
22.15 relative foster parent and reasons why the relative foster parent chose not to pursue adoption,
22.16 if applicable; and agency efforts to discuss with the child's parent or parents the permanent
22.17 transfer of permanent legal and physical custody or the reasons why these efforts were not
22.18 made;

22.19 (8) efforts to ensure the child's educational stability while in foster care for a child ~~who~~
22.20 ~~attained the minimum age for~~ subject to compulsory school attendance under state law
22.21 section 120A.22 and is enrolled full time in elementary or secondary school, or instructed
22.22 in elementary or secondary education at home, or instructed in an independent study
22.23 elementary or secondary program, or incapable of attending school on a full-time basis due
22.24 to a medical condition that is documented and supported by regularly updated information
22.25 in the child's case plan. Educational stability efforts include:

22.26 (i) efforts to ensure that the child remains in the same school in which the child was
22.27 enrolled prior to placement or upon the child's move from one placement to another, including
22.28 efforts to work with the local education authorities to ensure the child's educational stability
22.29 and attendance; or

22.30 (ii) if it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the same school that the child was
22.31 enrolled in prior to placement or move from one placement to another, efforts to ensure
22.32 immediate and appropriate enrollment for the child in a new school;

22.33 (9) for a child not yet subject to compulsory school attendance under section 120A.22,
22.34 efforts to ensure the child's educational stability while in foster care if the child is enrolled

23.1 in an early childhood education or child care program. If enrollment in an early childhood
23.2 education or child care program is not feasible or not in the child's best interest, the
23.3 out-of-home placement plan must state specific reasons for discontinuing the child's
23.4 enrollment in the same program or not seeking enrollment in a similar program. Early
23.5 childhood education or child care stability efforts include:

23.6 (i) efforts to ensure that the child remains in the same program in which the child was
23.7 enrolled prior to placement or upon the child's move from one placement to another, if in
23.8 the child's best interest, including efforts to work with the program to ensure the child's
23.9 educational stability and attendance; or

23.10 (ii) if it is not feasible or not in the child's best interest for the child to remain in the same
23.11 program that the child was enrolled in prior to placement or to a move from one placement
23.12 to another, efforts to ensure enrollment for the child in a similar program;

23.13 ~~(9)~~ (10) the educational, child care, or early childhood education program records of the
23.14 child including the most recent information available regarding:

23.15 (i) the names and addresses of the child's educational providers;

23.16 (ii) the child's grade level performance, if applicable;

23.17 (iii) the child's school or program record;

23.18 (iv) a statement about how the child's placement in foster care takes into account
23.19 proximity to the school or program in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement;
23.20 and

23.21 (v) any other relevant educational information;

23.22 ~~(10)~~ (11) the efforts by the responsible social services agency to ensure the oversight
23.23 and continuity of health care services for the foster child, including:

23.24 (i) the plan to schedule the child's initial health screens;

23.25 (ii) how the child's known medical problems and identified needs from the screens,
23.26 including any known communicable diseases, as defined in section 144.4172, subdivision
23.27 2, shall be monitored and treated while the child is in foster care;

23.28 (iii) how the child's medical information shall be updated and shared, including the
23.29 child's immunizations;

23.30 (iv) who is responsible to coordinate and respond to the child's health care needs,
23.31 including the role of the parent, the agency, and the foster parent;

- 24.1 (v) who is responsible for oversight of the child's prescription medications;
- 24.2 (vi) how physicians or other appropriate medical and nonmedical professionals shall be
24.3 consulted and involved in assessing the health and well-being of the child and determine
24.4 the appropriate medical treatment for the child; and
- 24.5 (vii) the responsibility to ensure that the child has access to medical care through either
24.6 medical insurance or medical assistance;
- 24.7 ~~(11)~~ (12) the health records of the child including information available regarding:
- 24.8 (i) the names and addresses of the child's health care and dental care providers;
- 24.9 (ii) a record of the child's immunizations;
- 24.10 (iii) the child's known medical problems, including any known communicable diseases
24.11 as defined in section 144.4172, subdivision 2;
- 24.12 (iv) the child's medications; and
- 24.13 (v) any other relevant health care information such as the child's eligibility for medical
24.14 insurance or medical assistance;
- 24.15 ~~(12)~~ (13) an independent living plan for a child 14 years of age or older, developed in
24.16 consultation with the child. The child may select one member of the case planning team to
24.17 be designated as the child's advisor and to advocate with respect to the application of the
24.18 reasonable and prudent parenting standards in subdivision 14. The plan should include, but
24.19 not be limited to, the following objectives:
- 24.20 (i) educational, vocational, or employment planning;
- 24.21 (ii) health care planning and medical coverage;
- 24.22 (iii) transportation including, where appropriate, assisting the child in obtaining a driver's
24.23 license;
- 24.24 (iv) money management, including the responsibility of the responsible social services
24.25 agency to ensure that the child annually receives, at no cost to the child, a consumer report
24.26 as defined under section 13C.001 and assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies
24.27 in the report;
- 24.28 (v) planning for housing;
- 24.29 (vi) social and recreational skills;
- 24.30 (vii) establishing and maintaining connections with the child's family and community;
24.31 and

25.1 (viii) regular opportunities to engage in age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate
25.2 activities typical for the child's age group, taking into consideration the capacities of the
25.3 individual child;

25.4 ~~(13)~~ (14) for a child in voluntary foster care for treatment under chapter 260D, diagnostic
25.5 and assessment information, specific services relating to meeting the mental health care
25.6 needs of the child, and treatment outcomes;

25.7 ~~(14)~~ (15) for a child 14 years of age or older, a signed acknowledgment that describes
25.8 the child's rights regarding education, health care, visitation, safety and protection from
25.9 exploitation, and court participation; receipt of the documents identified in section 260C.452;
25.10 and receipt of an annual credit report. The acknowledgment shall state that the rights were
25.11 explained in an age-appropriate manner to the child; and

25.12 ~~(15)~~ (16) for a child placed in a qualified residential treatment program, the plan must
25.13 include the requirements in section 260C.708.

25.14 (d) The parent or parents or guardian and the child each shall have the right to legal
25.15 counsel in the preparation of the case plan and shall be informed of the right at the time of
25.16 placement of the child. The child shall also have the right to a guardian ad litem. If unable
25.17 to employ counsel from their own resources, the court shall appoint counsel upon the request
25.18 of the parent or parents or the child or the child's legal guardian. The parent or parents may
25.19 also receive assistance from any person or social services agency in preparation of the case
25.20 plan.

25.21 (e) Before an out-of-home placement plan is signed by the parent or parents or guardian
25.22 of the child, the responsible social services agency must provide the parent or parents or
25.23 guardian with a one- to two-page summary of the plan using a form developed by the
25.24 commissioner. The out-of-home placement plan summary must clearly summarize the plan's
25.25 contents under paragraph (c) and list the requirements and responsibilities for the parent or
25.26 parents or guardian using plain language. The summary must be updated and provided to
25.27 the parent or parents or guardian when the out-of-home placement plan is updated under
25.28 subdivision 1a.

25.29 (f) After the plan has been agreed upon by the parties involved or approved or ordered
25.30 by the court, the foster parents shall be fully informed of the provisions of the case plan and
25.31 shall be provided a copy of the plan.

25.32 (g) Upon the child's discharge from foster care, the responsible social services agency
25.33 must provide the child's parent, adoptive parent, or permanent legal and physical custodian,
25.34 and the child, if the child is 14 years of age or older, with a current copy of the child's health

26.1 and education record. If a child meets the conditions in subdivision 15, paragraph (b), the
26.2 agency must also provide the child with the child's social and medical history. The responsible
26.3 social services agency may give a copy of the child's health and education record and social
26.4 and medical history to a child who is younger than 14 years of age, if it is appropriate and
26.5 if subdivision 15, paragraph (b), applies.

26.6 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.215, is amended by adding a subdivision
26.7 to read:

26.8 **Subd. 6a. Information on early childhood education and child care for children in**
26.9 **foster care.** For a child not yet subject to compulsory school attendance under section
26.10 120A.22, the responsible social services agency must provide information to the foster
26.11 parent about:

26.12 (1) early childhood education and child care program options in the foster parent's
26.13 geographic area;

26.14 (2) the Northstar foster care benefits child care allowance;

26.15 (3) eligibility requirements for the child care assistance program and early learning
26.16 scholarships; and

26.17 (4) application processes for the child care assistance program and early learning
26.18 scholarships.

26.19 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.451, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

26.20 **Subd. 2. Independent living plan.** ~~Upon the request of~~ (a) For any child in foster care
26.21 who is 14 years of age or older, the responsible social services agency must, in conjunction
26.22 with the child and other appropriate parties, develop and update the child's independent
26.23 living plan required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (12).

26.24 (b) For any child in foster care immediately prior to the child's 18th birthday ~~and who~~
26.25 ~~is in foster care at the time of the request,~~ the responsible social services agency shall, in
26.26 conjunction with the child and other appropriate parties, update the child's independent
26.27 living plan required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (12),
26.28 related to the child's employment, vocational, educational, social, or maturational needs and
26.29 submit it to the court as part of the required review under section 260C.202, subdivision 3.

26.30 The agency shall provide continued services and foster care for the child including those
26.31 services that are necessary to implement the independent living plan.

27.1 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.451, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

27.2 Subd. 3. **Eligibility to continue in foster care.** A child in foster care immediately prior
27.3 to the child's 18th birthday may continue in foster care past age 18 unless:

27.4 (1) the child can safely return home; or

27.5 ~~(2) the child is in placement pursuant to the agency's duties under section 256B.092 and~~
27.6 ~~Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0004 to 9525.0016, to meet the child's needs due to a~~
27.7 ~~developmental disability or related condition, and the child will be served as an adult under~~
27.8 ~~section 256B.092 and Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0004 to 9525.0016; or~~

27.9 ~~(3)~~ (2) the child can be adopted or have permanent legal and physical custody transferred
27.10 to a relative prior to the child's 18th birthday.

27.11 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.451, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

27.12 Subd. 3a. **Eligibility criteria.** The child must meet at least one of the following conditions
27.13 to be considered eligible to continue in or return to foster care and remain there to age 21.
27.14 The child must be:

27.15 (1) completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential,
27.16 including transition programs through a public or private school;

27.17 (2) enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education;

27.18 (3) participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to
27.19 employment;

27.20 (4) employed for at least 80 hours per month, including receiving benefits under chapter
27.21 268B; or

27.22 (5) incapable of doing any of the activities described in clauses (1) to (4) due to a medical
27.23 condition.

27.24 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 260C.451, subdivision 8, is amended
27.25 to read:

27.26 Subd. 8. **Notice of termination of foster care.** When a child in foster care between the
27.27 ages of 18 and 21 ceases to meet one of the eligibility criteria of subdivision 3a, the
27.28 responsible social services agency shall give the child written notice that foster care will
27.29 terminate 30 days from the date the notice is sent. The agency must send a copy of the
27.30 written notice to the commissioner of children, youth, and families. The child or the child's
27.31 guardian ad litem may file a motion asking the court to review the agency's determination

28.1 within 15 days of receiving the notice. The child shall not be discharged from foster care
28.2 until the motion is heard. The agency shall ~~work~~ engage with the child to develop a transition
28.3 ~~out of foster care~~ plan as required under section 260C.452, subdivision 4, paragraph (d),
28.4 that addresses the goals listed in section 260C.203, subdivision 4, clause (2). The written
28.5 notice of termination of benefits shall be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and
28.6 shall also give notice of the right to have the agency's determination reviewed by the court
28.7 in the proceeding where the court conducts the reviews required under section 260C.203,
28.8 260C.317, or 260C.515, subdivision 5 or 6. A copy of the termination notice shall be sent
28.9 to the child ~~and~~; the child's attorney, if any; the foster care provider; the child's guardian
28.10 ad litem; the commissioner of children, youth, and families; and the court. The agency is
28.11 not responsible for paying foster care benefits for any period of time after the child actually
28.12 leaves foster care.

28.13 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 518A.44, is amended to read:

28.14 **518A.44 NOTICE TO PUBLIC AUTHORITY.**

28.15 The petitioner shall notify the public authority of all proceedings for dissolution with
28.16 children, legal separation with children, determination of parentage, or for the custody of
28.17 a child, if either party is receiving public assistance or applies for it subsequent to the
28.18 commencement of the proceeding. The notice must contain the full names of the parties to
28.19 the proceeding, their Social Security account numbers, and their birth dates. After receipt
28.20 of the notice, the court shall set child support as provided in section 518A.35. The court
28.21 may order either or both parents owing a duty of support to a child of the marriage to pay
28.22 an amount reasonable or necessary for the child's support, without regard to marital
28.23 misconduct. The court shall approve a child support stipulation of the parties if each party
28.24 is represented by independent counsel, unless the stipulation does not meet the conditions
28.25 of section 518A.35. In other cases the court shall determine and order child support in a
28.26 specific dollar amount in accordance with the guidelines and the other factors set forth in
28.27 section 518A.43 and any departure therefrom. The court may also order the obligor to pay
28.28 child support in the form of a percentage share of the obligor's net bonuses, commissions,
28.29 or other forms of compensation, in addition to, or if the obligor receives no base pay, in lieu
28.30 of, an order for a specific dollar amount.

28.31 Sec. 15. Laws 2024, chapter 115, article 12, section 30, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

28.32 Subd. 6. **Reports.** By July 15, 2025, the Supreme Court Council on Child Protection
28.33 must submit a progress report on the council's duties under subdivision 5 to the governor,

29.1 the chief justice of the supreme court, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the
 29.2 legislative committees with jurisdiction over child protection. By ~~January~~ December 15,
 29.3 2026, the council must submit its final report to the governor, the chief justice of the supreme
 29.4 court, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with
 29.5 jurisdiction over child protection, detailing the comprehensive blueprint developed under
 29.6 subdivision 5.

29.7 Sec. 16. Laws 2024, chapter 115, article 12, section 30, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

29.8 Subd. 7. **Expiration.** The Supreme Court Council on Child Protection expires ~~upon the~~
 29.9 ~~submission of its final report under subdivision 6~~ on June 30, 2027.

29.10 Sec. 17. Laws 2024, chapter 115, article 22, section 6, is amended to read:

29.11 Sec. 6. **SUPREME COURT** \$ -0- \$ 1,000,000

29.12 **Supreme Court Council on Child**
 29.13 **Protection.** \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 is
 29.14 for the establishment and administration of
 29.15 the Supreme Court Council on Child
 29.16 Protection. This is a onetime appropriation
 29.17 and is available until June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

29.18 Sec. 18. Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 3, article 22, section 20, subdivision 2,
 29.19 is amended to read:

29.20 Subd. 2. **Youth Intervention Programs**
 29.21 **Association Grant**

29.22 Notwithstanding the percentage requirement
 29.23 under Minnesota Statutes, section 142A.43,
 29.24 subdivision 3, \$355,000 in fiscal year 2026
 29.25 ~~and \$355,000 in fiscal year 2027 are~~ is for a
 29.26 grant to the Minnesota Youth Intervention
 29.27 Programs Association for collaboration,
 29.28 program development, professional
 29.29 development training, technical assistance,
 29.30 tracking, and analyzing and reporting outcome
 29.31 data for the community-based grantees of the
 29.32 program.

ARTICLE 7

FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

Section 1. [260C.009] FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. Legislative intent. (a) It is the intent of the legislature and the purpose of this section to ensure the right of foster youth to receive a level of care (1) comparable to nonfoster youth, and (2) higher than the care foster youth would have received if not placed in foster care, due to the state of Minnesota choosing to intervene in a foster youth's life.

(b) The rights under this section are established for the benefit of children and youth in foster care and the extended foster care program. The rights granted in this section do not replace or diminish other rights, liberties, or responsibilities relating to children and youth in foster care or the extended foster care program, including any rights under this chapter; chapters 144, 241, 245, 253, and 260; section 363A.02; Minnesota Rules; the Indian Child Welfare Act; the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act; and the African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act.

Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

(b) "Age appropriate" means the activities, rights, and responsibilities that align with a foster youth's chronological age and are common to the foster youth's peers.

(c) "Appropriate" means in alignment with age and developmental ability of a foster youth based on the reasonable treatment a foster youth would receive if not placed in the foster care system.

(d) "Belongings" means personal effects or possessions as defined reasonably by the foster youth.

(e) "Chemical restraint" means any psychopharmacologic drug used for discipline or convenience and that is not required to treat medical symptoms.

(f) "Culturally appropriate" means in alignment with practices, resources, or services that reflect, honor, and celebrate a foster youth's cultural background, including foods, clothing, personal care products, traditions, values, and social norms.

(g) "Developmentally appropriate" means activities, resources, education, or information suitable for the foster youth's age, cognitive level, and emotional maturity.

(h) "Disability" has the meaning given in section 363A.03, subdivision 12.

31.1 (i) "Discipline" means actions used to correct or deter negative or harmful behaviors.

31.2 (j) "Discrimination" means the unfair treatment of a person or group of people because
31.3 of an actual or perceived difference, including age, race, sex, nationality, sexual orientation,
31.4 gender identity, gender expression, religion, or disability.

31.5 (k) "Excessive medication" means medication administered as a substitute for a behavioral
31.6 or therapeutic program, for punishment, for the convenience of any foster parents or care
31.7 providers, in quantities that interfere with learning or other social-emotional goals, or beyond
31.8 prescribed limits, as determined by a licensed health care professional.

31.9 (l) "Foster youth" means: (1) a child under 18 years of age who is under the placement
31.10 and care responsibility of a responsible social services agency and is placed away from the
31.11 child's parents or guardians; or (2) an individual under 21 years of age who is in foster care
31.12 pursuant to section 260C.451. Foster youth includes but is not limited to youth in out-of-home
31.13 placements pursuant to this chapter or chapter 260B or 260D.

31.14 (m) "Health care" or "health care services" means medical, dental, vision, and mental
31.15 health services, treatments, and procedures.

31.16 (n) "Maltreatment" has the meaning given in section 260E.03, subdivision 12.

31.17 (o) "Physical restraint" means any manual method or physical or mechanical device,
31.18 material, or equipment attached or adjacent to an individual's body that the individual cannot
31.19 remove easily that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to one's body.

31.20 (p) "Privacy" means freedom from the attention of others, including physical privacy or
31.21 verbal confidentiality.

31.22 (q) "Relative" has the meaning given in section 260C.007, subdivision 27.

31.23 Subd. 3. **Rights.** While in foster care, foster youth have a right to:

31.24 (1) be free from physical or chemical restraint used for the purposes of discipline or
31.25 convenience. Physical or chemical restraints must only be used in the case of immediate
31.26 threat to life or bodily harm to the foster youth or others and in accordance with applicable
31.27 laws. Any use of physical or chemical restraints must be documented. De-escalation tactics
31.28 should be exhausted before the use of physical or chemical restraints is considered and the
31.29 least restrictive interventions should be prioritized;

31.30 (2) be free from law enforcement intervention requested by adult caregivers, unless
31.31 requested as a last resort after other diversion and de-escalation tactics have been used, and
31.32 when there is an imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or when a crime may

32.1 have been committed. Law enforcement intervention or placement disruption must not be
32.2 used to threaten, discipline, or retaliate against a foster youth;

32.3 (3) have appropriate actions taken to keep the foster youth safe and comfortable, if the
32.4 foster youth shares any information regarding previous or ongoing maltreatment to the foster
32.5 youth's family and permanency team. Appropriate actions include but are not limited to:

32.6 (i) consideration of accommodations so that the foster youth, while exercising their
32.7 rights, does not need to encounter, address, or interact with a person who harmed the foster
32.8 youth; and

32.9 (ii) allowing the foster youth to refuse physical touch or emotional affection, including,
32.10 but not limited to, hugs and kisses;

32.11 (4) age and developmentally appropriate house rules, which may include a curfew, that
32.12 are clear, consistent, and explained to the foster youth in a way the foster youth can
32.13 understand. If a foster youth is living in a residential treatment facility, licensed residential
32.14 family-based substance use disorder treatment program, qualified residential treatment
32.15 program, secure detention facility, or shelter care facility as those terms are defined in
32.16 section 260C.007, the foster youth must have access to written rules or policies upon entering
32.17 the facility or setting and at the foster youth's request;

32.18 (5) have care for the foster youth's basic needs be of the same or similar quality of others
32.19 in the household, with consideration of the foster youth's preferences, and for care for those
32.20 basic needs not to be withheld as a form of discipline. In addition to the requirements under
32.21 Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3080, basic needs may include the provision of or access to:

32.22 (i) hygiene and hair care products;

32.23 (ii) ethnically and culturally appropriate hygiene and hair care that may include tools
32.24 and services, oils, bonnets, du rags, lotions, shampoo, conditioner, and body wash;

32.25 (iii) medications;

32.26 (iv) menstrual products;

32.27 (v) privacy;

32.28 (vi) self-regulation tools;

32.29 (vii) sentimental belongings; and

32.30 (viii) religious or spiritual altars, artifacts, books, pieces, or visitations;

- 33.1 (6) sufficient food and beverages that promote the foster youth's health and nutrition
33.2 and that:
- 33.3 (i) are in accordance with the foster youth's religious, spiritual, and cultural observances;
33.4 (ii) account for the foster youth's allergies and sensitivities, if applicable;
33.5 (iii) reasonably align with the foster youth's food aversions; and
33.6 (iv) do not impose a diet or food restrictions to lose or gain weight, unless under the
33.7 direction of a health care professional;
- 33.8 (7) dress themselves and choose their own clothing;
- 33.9 (8) have access to a bedroom where the foster youth is living, whenever it is safe and
33.10 appropriate;
- 33.11 (9) be provided with appropriate travel bags, not including trash bags or grocery bags,
33.12 to pack the foster youth's belongings if the foster youth moves;
- 33.13 (10) engage in communication without monitoring, except if a safety concern is
33.14 determined. If a safety concern is determined and the foster youth's communication will be
33.15 monitored, the monitoring must be documented in the foster youth's out-of-home placement
33.16 plan and disclosed to the foster youth. For purposes of this clause, communication may
33.17 include, but not be limited to, the use of technology or other personal belongings, such as
33.18 writings and artwork;
- 33.19 (11) have access to a method of communication that is appropriate for the foster youth's
33.20 age and developmental level, which may include a mobile phone;
- 33.21 (12) financial services support, which includes but is not limited to:
- 33.22 (i) support to open and access the foster youth's own bank account;
33.23 (ii) assistance with having the foster youth's credit frozen upon entry into foster care at
33.24 any age and support in unfreezing and refreezing the foster youth's credit upon the foster
33.25 youth's request if the foster youth is 15 years of age or older;
- 33.26 (iii) assistance with receiving and understanding the foster youth's yearly credit report,
33.27 if applicable; and
- 33.28 (iv) if the foster youth's credit is being used fraudulently, the responsible social services
33.29 agency taking steps to amend any discrepancies in the foster youth's credit report;
- 33.30 (13) be assigned chores or household tasks that are typical for the foster youth's age and
33.31 development and that are comparable to those of other children in the home, if applicable;

34.1 (14) have privacy when changing clothes, bathing, and using the bathroom, if safe and
34.2 age and developmentally appropriate;

34.3 (15) be free from cameras in bedrooms, bathrooms, or any other room or area of the
34.4 residence in which the foster youth is expected to bathe or change clothing;

34.5 (16) be informed that the foster youth may be recorded on camera, if cameras are in use
34.6 at the foster youth's residence, and to have their concerns about recording addressed by the
34.7 family and permanency team;

34.8 (17) not be subjected to unreasonable searches of the foster youth's personal belongings,
34.9 space, or body. Any search of the foster youth's personal belongings, space, or body must
34.10 be based on an articulated and individualized need and must be as minimally invasive as
34.11 possible in relation to the need;

34.12 (18) access health care in a timely manner, that the provider, caseworker, or other
34.13 qualified professional explains to the foster youth in a manner that is understandable to the
34.14 foster youth;

34.15 (19) meet with the foster youth's health care providers in private, if age and
34.16 developmentally appropriate, or with a trusted adult present if requested by the foster youth
34.17 and have the foster youth's concerns addressed;

34.18 (20) give input into the foster youth's health care, including but not limited to:

34.19 (i) selecting or changing providers for any reason, as available; and

34.20 (ii) receiving support in accessing family therapy or refusing family therapy, unless
34.21 required by the foster youth's out-of-home placement plan;

34.22 (21) be free from excessive or unnecessary medication, procedures, or treatments, as
34.23 determined by a licensed health care professional;

34.24 (22) receive support in accessing education and services, as age and developmentally
34.25 appropriate, related to consent, healthy relationships, sexual and reproductive health and
34.26 safety and personal care, hygiene, and grooming that reflects the foster youth's race, ethnicity,
34.27 culture, gender identity, and gender expression;

34.28 (23) receive support to have consistent and quality contact with relatives, including both
34.29 in-person or virtual opportunities, with a preference for in-person visits. A foster youth
34.30 should be supported in conducting other communications with relatives, such as letters,
34.31 emails, texts, or telephone calls and have contact or visits with relatives only be restricted

35.1 in circumstances when the foster youth's family and permanency team has collaborated to
35.2 weigh relevant factors including, but not limited to:

35.3 (i) the foster youth's physical and emotional safety;

35.4 (ii) input from the foster youth's health care team, if applicable;

35.5 (iii) input from the foster youth; and

35.6 (iv) the appropriateness of alternative forms of visits or contact;

35.7 (24) be told in a personal and confidential manner if the responsible agency is aware
35.8 that a foster youth's relative has died or is experiencing life-threatening health issues and,
35.9 when practicable, be supported in visiting a person who is experiencing life-threatening
35.10 health issues or attending death-related services if someone the foster youth knows has died;

35.11 (25) have the foster youth's family and permanency team make every effort to support
35.12 the foster youth's relationships with all of the foster youth's siblings and relatives, including
35.13 adult siblings, whether the siblings are in foster care or not. If the responsible agency has
35.14 documented a verifiable safety concern in the foster youth's out-of-home placement plan,
35.15 the family and permanency team is not required to comply with this clause. Supportive
35.16 efforts include but are not limited to:

35.17 (i) prioritizing the foster youth's input regarding any sibling and relative relationships.
35.18 This may include the frequency and methods of communication, including telephone calls,
35.19 letters, or in-person or virtual visits;

35.20 (ii) supporting frequent contact with the foster youth's siblings, including weekly or
35.21 regular face-to-face visits, whenever possible, and weekly virtual contact; and

35.22 (iii) alternative ways to preserve sibling and relative relationships, if there is a
35.23 documented, verifiable safety concern that prevents contact with a sibling or relative;

35.24 (26) have the foster youth's siblings, if known, including adult siblings and siblings not
35.25 in foster care, be notified of their rights as a sibling through materials in a format specified
35.26 by the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson;

35.27 (27) receive support to plan to maintain sibling and relative relationships after the foster
35.28 youth exits foster care. Support may include the development of communication and contact
35.29 agreements;

35.30 (28) receive support in seeking and maintaining regular contact with communities that
35.31 reflect the foster youth's culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and
35.32 gender expression, with specific attention paid to maintaining the community connections

36.1 the foster youth had prior to entering foster care. The foster youth's cultural and community
36.2 needs must be documented in the foster youth's out-of-home placement plan;

36.3 (29) be cared for by people who are trained on understanding and validating the foster
36.4 youth's cultural, racial, and ethnic heritage in a trauma-informed manner;

36.5 (30) receive support to make and cultivate friendships, including with friends made
36.6 before the foster youth's time in foster care or while in a previous placement. Support
36.7 includes but is not limited to:

36.8 (i) in-person or virtual opportunities to communicate or visit, with a preference for
36.9 in-person visits;

36.10 (ii) facilitating letters, emails, text messages, or telephone calls; and

36.11 (iii) not restricting communication with friends, unless due to concerns for the foster
36.12 youth's safety or well-being;

36.13 (31) mutual communication in the foster youth's preferred languages, which may include
36.14 Braille or sign language, and receive all necessary and requested translation services and
36.15 support for all foster-care-related meetings or materials. If the foster youth's foster parent
36.16 or caregiver is unable to communicate in the foster youth's language, the foster youth's
36.17 caseworker must provide a plan to meet the foster youth's communication needs;

36.18 (32) participate or choose not to participate in cultural, religious, and spiritual events
36.19 and practices. Participation in cultural, religious, and spiritual events and practices may
36.20 include access to spaces and materials to practice the foster youth's religion or spirituality
36.21 such as the ability to smudge, light incense, or light candles safely or under appropriate
36.22 supervision;

36.23 (33) privacy regarding the foster youth's sexual orientation and gender identity, and
36.24 whenever possible, to protect the foster youth's gender identity or sexual orientation from
36.25 disclosure without the foster youth's consent;

36.26 (34) have support to ensure that the foster youth does not receive a reduction of a grade
36.27 or disciplinary action solely due to foster-care-related absences or lateness and be supported
36.28 in accessing and identifying recovery options in the foster youth's classes during school
36.29 hours, if possible, when these circumstances occur;

36.30 (35) when possible, not have the foster youth's scheduled activities, including school,
36.31 disrupted by foster-care-related meetings and events in accordance with the foster youth's
36.32 preferences or if there is a safety need or necessity;

37.1 (36) have meaningful efforts made by the responsible social services agency to ensure
37.2 the oversight and continuity of educational services for the foster youth, including support
37.3 to:

37.4 (i) transfer credits, including partial credits;

37.5 (ii) maximize credits obtained if the foster youth changes schools; and

37.6 (iii) enroll in any accelerated and college-level courses and programs the foster youth
37.7 is qualified to enroll in, including timely support to prepare for postsecondary education;

37.8 (37) participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities that align with the
37.9 foster youth's preferences and not be excluded from participation in or be denied benefits
37.10 of services, programs, or activities due to the foster youth's disability status. Activities under
37.11 this clause include but are not limited to social activities, school events, sports, arts
37.12 programming, clubs, community activities, cultural customs, other extracurricular activities,
37.13 and activities with the foster youth's placement, relatives, and friends;

37.14 (38) have support in ensuring continuation of activities if the foster youth's foster care
37.15 status or related circumstances affect the foster youth's participation or attendance, including
37.16 timely transportation that is free of cost to the foster youth;

37.17 (39) receive contact information for the professionals on the foster youth's family and
37.18 permanency team and:

37.19 (i) be able to privately contact the team when desired;

37.20 (ii) receive a response that is reasonably prompt; and

37.21 (iii) have timely, quality, and private visits, including if the foster youth is out of state;

37.22 (40) have the foster youth's input prioritized in decision making by the foster youth's
37.23 family and permanency team, which may include requesting a placement change;

37.24 (41) receive as much advance notice as possible before a transition to a new placement
37.25 and be informed about what the foster youth can expect, including but not limited to
37.26 placement location and type, where the foster youth will sleep, if the foster youth will have
37.27 roommates, and any changes in the foster youth's life that will result in this placement
37.28 change. Foster youth must not be subject to avoidable denial or delay of placement or
37.29 services;

37.30 (42) receive appropriate resources to meet the objectives of the foster youth's independent
37.31 living plan, including but not limited to educational and vocational resources and resources

38.1 on mental and physical health management, life skills, financial literacy, insurance, and
38.2 social and recreational skills;

38.3 (43) if the foster youth meets eligibility requirements, automatically remain or enroll in
38.4 extended foster care unless the foster youth notifies the foster youth's caseworker that the
38.5 foster youth does not want extended foster care with a signed form created by the
38.6 commissioner of children, youth, and families;

38.7 (44) as reasonably known by the foster youth's caseworker, be notified by the agency
38.8 of all benefits that the foster youth is eligible to receive during the foster youth's time in
38.9 foster care at the point when the foster youth is eligible and every six months after and be
38.10 supported in accessing the benefits. This includes but is not limited to fostering independence
38.11 grants, education training vouchers, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA),
38.12 fostering youth independence vouchers, medical assistance, and extended foster care;

38.13 (45) as age appropriate, timely support from the foster youth's caseworker in obtaining
38.14 and providing the foster youth's vital records at no cost to the foster youth;

38.15 (46) maintain employment or professional development opportunities in accordance
38.16 with the law and receive support in accessing transportation to and from these opportunities
38.17 that is free or low cost to the foster youth;

38.18 (47) if the foster youth owns a motor vehicle, access the foster youth's motor vehicle in
38.19 accordance with the law and for access to only be restricted due to safety or well-being
38.20 concerns;

38.21 (48) support from the agency to enroll in and attend a driver's education class, take a
38.22 permit and driver's license test, and obtain car insurance, which may include assistance in
38.23 gathering documents, enrolling in, and obtaining support from the agency to access available
38.24 financial supports;

38.25 (49) in accordance with the law, request and receive the foster youth's foster care records
38.26 upon discharge from foster care or transition to extended foster care and, if the foster youth
38.27 is 13 years of age or older, receive official documentation that shows the foster youth was
38.28 in foster care and to request and be notified if the foster youth has any personal effects that
38.29 are in the foster youth's file, including pictures, letters, or notes;

38.30 (50) receive clear and accurate information regarding the foster youth's parental rights
38.31 from the foster youth's caseworker and receive support from the foster youth's family and
38.32 permanency team in maintaining the foster youth's parental rights;

39.1 (51) access any resources needed to adequately and safely care for the foster youth's
39.2 children, including:

39.3 (i) affordable child care;

39.4 (ii) health care appointments and services for the foster youth and the foster youth's
39.5 children, including transportation at no cost to the foster youth;

39.6 (iii) services to support the foster youth's birth plan and postpartum needs, including
39.7 resources to ensure these services are free or low cost; and

39.8 (iv) resources to establish end-of-life planning for the foster youth and the foster youth's
39.9 children;

39.10 (52) determine the foster youth's own birth and parenting plans in collaboration with
39.11 the foster youth's birth services provider that are aligned with the foster youth's religious,
39.12 spiritual, cultural, racial, and ethnic identities;

39.13 (53) if possible and safe, support to coparent the foster youth's child, including support
39.14 in attending regular visitations and overnights with the foster youth's children in the foster
39.15 youth's choice of location in accordance with custody orders and regular contact with the
39.16 foster youth's child, including in-person and virtual visits, telephone calls, and letters;

39.17 (54) not be coerced into terminating the foster youth's parental rights. The foster youth
39.18 must not have to choose between staying in the foster youth's placement, receiving services,
39.19 or accessing basic needs and maintaining the foster youth's parental rights;

39.20 (55) be placed with the foster youth's children in a setting that is as family-like as possible;

39.21 (56) not have the foster youth or the foster youth's children drug tested solely due to the
39.22 foster youth's foster care status;

39.23 (57) receive accessible materials, whether printed or digital, related to the foster youth's
39.24 rights from their caseworker upon entering or reentering foster care and at least every six
39.25 months thereafter or upon the foster youth's request. Materials under this clause must include:

39.26 (i) a copy of the bill of rights under this section; and

39.27 (ii) materials relating to the rights under this section and the Office of the Foster Youth
39.28 Ombudsperson in a format specified by the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson;

39.29 (58) ask for anything the foster youth needs, including things guaranteed by the rights
39.30 under this section or under any other law. The foster youth must not be retaliated against
39.31 or disciplined for asking for, accessing, reporting, or raising concern about accessing the

40.1 rights under this section or any other law. The rights under this section or any other law
40.2 must not be violated as discipline or retaliation; and

40.3 (59) receive intervention and remedy if the foster youth's rights are violated, including
40.4 support from the foster youth's family and permanency team to advocate for the foster
40.5 youth's rights. If a person violates the foster youth's rights under this section or any other
40.6 law, and the caseworker is aware, the caseworker must intervene and remedy the violation
40.7 of rights to the extent possible. If the foster youth's caseworker violates the foster youth's
40.8 rights, the agency must intervene and remedy the violation of rights to the extent possible.
40.9 If the foster youth reports a violation of rights to any member of the foster youth's family
40.10 or permanency team, the team member must notify the remaining professional members of
40.11 the family and permanency team of the violation.

40.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective November 1, 2026."

40.13 Renumber the articles in sequence

40.14 Amend the title accordingly