

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 171

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TOPIC: MDH Policy Changes

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Overview

This act makes a number of changes in programs administered or regulated by the Minnesota Department of Health. These changes include modifying requirements for filing local public accountability and collaboration plans, modifying the definition of rural hospital and critical access hospital for certain programs, giving the commissioner of commerce authority to regulate insurance policies for funeral goods and services, and eliminating department of health authority to regulate professional boxing matches.

Section

- 1 **Local public accountability and collaboration plan.** Amends § 62Q.075. Beginning October 31, 2004, requires HMOs to file local public accountability and collaboration plans with the commissioner of health every four years. (Current law requires HMOs and CISNs to file these biennially.) Beginning October 31, 2002, requires HMOs to file progress reports every two years updating progress on the four-year collaboration plan. Also modifies plan requirements and strikes obsolete language.
- 2 **Definition.** Amends § 144.147, subd. 1. Modifies the definition of eligible rural hospital, for purposes of the rural hospital planning and transition grant program, to include hospitals in communities with less than 10,000 people (current law limits population to 5,000).
- 3 **Definition.** Amends § 144.148, subd. 1. Modifies the definition of eligible rural hospital, for purposes of the rural hospital capital improvement grant program, to include hospitals in communities with less than 10,000 people (current law limits population to 5,000).
- 4 **Rural health initiatives.** Amends § 144.1483. Expands the definition of critical access hospital, to include hospitals located in a county with a designated medically underserved area or health professional shortage area. (Current law requires the hospital to be located in a designated medically underserved area or health professional shortage area). Also allows hospitals located

in a county contiguous to a county with a medically underserved area or health professional shortage area to be designated critical access hospitals.

- 5 **Nonlimiting.** Amends § 149A.01, by adding subd. 4. Provides that nothing in the chapter regulating funeral goods and services limits the powers granted to the commissioner of health, commissioner of commerce, attorney general, or a county attorney by another law.
- 6 **Disciplinary action.** Amends § 149A.02, subd. 14. Makes a conforming change in the mortuary science chapter, replacing a reference to "commissioner" with a reference to "regulatory agency."
- 7 **Regulatory agency.** Amends § 149A.02, by adding subd. 37a. For purposes of chapter 149A on mortuary science, defines "regulatory agency" as the commissioner of health for provisions related to a funeral provider licensed, registered, or issued a permit under the chapter, and as the commissioner of commerce for provisions related to insurance policies purchased by a preneed consumer.
- 8 **Publication of disciplinary actions.** Amends § 149A.11. Requires regulatory agencies to report all disciplinary measures or actions taken to the commissioner of health, and makes conforming changes.
- 9 **Immunity; reporting.** Amends § 149A.62. Makes a conforming change.
- 10 **Casket, alternate container, and cremation container sales; records; required disclosures.** Amends § 149A.71, subd. 4. Makes a conforming change.
- 11 **Investigations by state auditor.** Amends § 149A.97, subd. 8. Makes a conforming change.
- 12 **Transfer of enforcement authority.** Allows enforcement authority in specified sections of statute related to insurance policies purchased by a preneed consumer to be exercised by the commissioner of commerce. Provides that the commissioner of health retains enforcement authority for provisions in chapter 149A related to funeral providers that are regulated under that chapter.
- 13 **Revisor's instruction.** Requires the revisor to change the terms "commissioner" or "commissioner of health" to "regulatory agency" in specified sections of chapter 149A.
- 14 **Repealer.** Repeals section 144.994 (authority for the commissioner of health to regulate professional boxing matches in Minnesota) and Laws 2000, chapter 488, article 2, section 26 (language transferring responsibility for regulation of professional boxing to the commissioner of health).