

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 175

**SESSION:** 2009 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** DHS Child Care, Program Integrity, and Adult Supports

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## Overview

This bill contains the Department of Human Services policy provisions related to child care assistance, program integrity, and adult supports.

Section

## Article 1: Child Care

### Overview

This article aligns payment policies with implementation of the state-wide electronic child care assistance system (MEC2) and modifies eligibility for the school readiness connections program.

- 1 Application.** Amends § 119B.011, subd. 3. Modifies the definition of “application.”
- 2 Monthly payments.** Amends § 119B.08, subd. 2. Removes language allowing the commissioner to make payments to counties in quarterly installments. Requires the commissioner to make monthly payments on a reimbursement basis for expenditures reported outside of the electronic system used to administer child care assistance.
- 3 General eligibility requirements for all applicants for child care assistance.** Amends § 119B.09, subd. 1. Makes a technical modification to the child care assistance maximum income eligibility level, making the maximum income less than *or equal to* 67 percent of state median income rather than less than 67 percent of SMI.
- 4 Fee schedule.** Amends § 119B.12, subd. 1. Removes language requiring the commissioner to exclude certain taxes from the amount of income used to determine eligibility for child

care assistance. Removes language requiring the commissioner to base the parent fee schedule on the ability of the family to pay for child care. Removes language requiring the fee schedule to be designed to use any available tax credits. Requires changes to parent fees to be implemented on the first Monday of the service period following the effective date of the change.

- 5 **Provider payments.** Amends § 119B.13, subd. 6. Removes language requiring counties or the state to make vendor payments to the child care provider or pay the parent directly for eligible child care expenses. Modifies the way in which payments are made under the child care assistance program.
- 6 **Administrative expenses.** Amends § 119B.15. Requires the commissioner to make monthly payments to each county based on direct service expenditures. Allows payments to be withheld if monthly reports are incomplete or untimely.
- 7 **Family and child eligibility.** Amends § 119B.231, subd. 3. Modifies family eligibility for the school readiness connections program.

## **Article 2: Program Integrity**

### **Overview**

This article lifts the ban on charging for development and maintenance of county-initiated projects for PRISM and MAXIS. These include projects aimed at providing more integrated services to clients and creating more efficient county workflow. This article also includes language clarifying that the Judgment by Operation of Law process can be used for state funded MA and state funded MinnesotaCare overpayments as are all other public assistance overpayments. Finally, this article allows use of an administrative process to renew these overpayment judgments and to provide procedures to do so which will be cost-saving to the counties and the court.

- 1 **Establishment of systems.** Amends § 256.014, subd. 1. Lifts the ban on charging for development and maintenance of county-initiated projects for PRISM and MAXIS. These include projects aimed at providing more integrated services to clients and creating more efficient county workflow.
- 2 **Qualifying overpayment.** Amends § 256.0471, subd. 1. Clarifies that the Judgment by Operation of Law process can be used for state funded MA and state funded MinnesotaCare overpayments.
- 3 **Administrative renewal of overpayment judgments.** Amends § 256.0471, by adding subd. 6a. Allows use of an administrative process to renew these overpayment judgments and to provide procedures to do so which will be cost-saving to the counties and the court.
- 4 **Inventory of early childhood services.**

**Subd. 1. Creation.** Requires the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care to create an inventory of early childhood services and specifies the information that must be included in the inventory.

**Subd. 2. Funding.** Encourages the council to seek and use federal and private funds for the inventory.

## **Article 3: Adult Supports**

### **Overview**

This article contains the DHS's policy recommendations for the GA and GRH programs.

- 1      **Rules.** Amends § 256D.01, subd. 1b. Updates statutory language regarding eligibility for the GA personal needs allowance to the extent this need is not met by other income.
- 2      **Standard of assistance for basic needs.** Amends § 256D.44, subd. 3. Updates statutory language regarding eligibility for the GA personal needs allowance to the extent this need is not met by other income.
- 3      **License required.** Amends § 256I.04, subd. 2a. Eliminates the need for re-licensing child foster care providers as adult foster care providers in order to obtain GRH funding for a disabled child who has turned 18 years old.
- 4      **Moratorium on the development of GRH beds.** Amends § 256I.04, subd. 3. Updates the authorizing statute of a GRH project to match the current location of the project.
- 5      **Supplementary rate for certain facilities; Stearns, Sherburne, or Benton County.** Amends § 256I.05, subd. 1k. Updates the authorizing statutes for a GRH supplementary rate to be paid to a specific provider to match the location of that provider.