HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill, as amended, increases the income limit for the prescription drug program for Medicare enrollees of all ages to 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, establishes monthly deductibles based on a sliding scale for enrollees with incomes above 120 percent of the poverty guidelines, and moves up by one year the date on which Medicare enrollees under age 65 become eligible.

Section

1 **Eligibility.** Amends § 256.955, subd. 2a. Expands eligibility for the prescription drug program by:

eliminating the requirement that all enrollees be age 65 or older

increasing the program income limit from 120 percent to 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for enrollees of all ages

(Clause (2) inserts the existing program asset limits into the subdivision.)

2 **Cost sharing.** Amends § 256.955, subd. 7. Establishes monthly deductibles based on a sliding scale, for enrollees with incomes between 120 and 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

3 **Appropriation.** Appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner of human services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2003, to implement sections 1 and 2.

4 **Repealer.** Repeals section 256.955, subd. 2b, effective July 1, 2001. (This subdivision, which expands eligibility effective July 1, 2002 to include Medicare enrollees under age 65 with incomes not exceeding 100 percent of poverty, is no longer necessary since section 1 makes these individuals eligible July 1, 2001 at the 120 percent level.)

5 **Effective date.** States that sections 1 and 2 are effective July 1, 2001.