

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes a truancy prevention pilot program for tardy and absent school-age children under age 13 whose families are on MFIP. Requires that the pilot program be implemented in at least one urban and one rural school district.

Section

- 1 **Truancy Prevention Program.** Creates new § 256J.80. Establishes a truancy prevention pilot program and requires the development of procedures to transmit student attendance data to county social services agencies for the purpose of the pilot program.

Subd. 1. Pilot Projects. Directs the commissioner of human services, in consultation with the commissioner of children, families, and learning, to collaborate with school districts and county social service agencies in developing a truancy prevention pilot program in at least one urban and one rural school district for tardy and absent school-age children under age 13 whose families are on MFIP. Directs schools to refer such families to county social service agencies for an assessment and to develop a corrective action plan to ensure children's punctual and regular school attendance. Provides that the family will be reported to the county agency for failure to follow the corrective action plan and makes such families subject to sanctions involving reductions in MFIP grants. Allows the commissioner of human services to expand the program with agreement from school districts. Directs the commissioner to report to the legislature by November 30, 2002, on the success of the implementation of the pilot projects under this section.

Subd. 2. Transfer of attendance data. Notwithstanding restrictions on access to student records, directs the commissioners of human services and children, families, and learning to develop procedures to transmit student attendance data to county social services agencies for purposes of implementing this pilot program.
- 2 **Appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2002 from the general fund

to the commissioner of human services for the truancy prevention pilot program. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2003.