

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Holberg and others

Subject: Limitation on use of family planning grants

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Overview

This bill prohibits use of family planning grant funds for various purposes including provision of abortion services, counseling and referral for abortion services, and advocacy for abortion legality or accessibility.

Section

1 Family planning grant use limited. New section 145.417.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines "abortion," "family planning grant funds," family planning services," "nondirective counseling," and "public advocacy." Family planning grant funds include maternal and child health block grants, family planning special projects grants, grants to eliminate health disparities and any other state grant program where funds may be used to fund family planning services.

Subd. 2. Restriction. Provides that no family planning grant funds may be used to subsidize abortion services or administrative expenses, paid or granted to an organization that provides abortion services, or paid or granted to an organization that has a policy that abortion is part of a continuum of family planning or reproductive health services.

Subd. 3. Referrals and advocacy. Provides that recipients of family planning grant funds may provide non-directive counseling relating to pregnancy, but may not refer patients to organizations that provide abortion services. Recipients may not display or distribute marketing materials about abortion services, may not publicly advocate for abortion legality or accessibility, and must be separately incorporated from any

Section

affiliate that provides abortion services.

Subd. 4. Independent affiliates providing abortion services. Prohibits recipients of family planning grant funds from affiliation with organizations that provide abortion services unless specified criteria for independence are met. These include no sharing of name, facilities, payroll, or equipment and supplies as well as maintenance of separate financial records.

Subd. 5. Audit required. Requires submission of an independent audit with an application for family planning grant funds.

Subd. 6. Title X funds. Provides that this section does not prohibit provision of any services required to be provided as a condition of receiving federal Title X funds.

Subd. 7. Severability. Provides that if any portion of this section is found to be unconstitutional, that portion is severable and the balance of the section is to remain effective.