

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill exempts certain refugees and asylees from participating in the Diversionary Work Program (DWP).

The DWP provides short-term diversionary benefits to eligible recipients; the benefits are designed to lead to unsubsidized employment, increase economic stability, and reduce the risk of families needing longer-term assistance. Families who meet the DWP eligibility requirements are prohibited from receiving MFIP assistance. However, counties may provide supportive and other allowable services funded by the MFIP consolidated fund. Eligibility for DWP is limited to a maximum of four months once in a 12-month period.

Section

- 1 Eligibility for diversionary work program.** Amends § 256J.95, subd. 3. Adds paragraph (d), which exempts certain newly arrived refugees and asylees from participating in the DWP and allows them to enroll directly into the MFIP program. Requires refugees to have the option of being assigned to an agency that has employees who are familiar with their culture, speak their language, and have more than one year of experience in assisting refugees in finding employment. Allows refugees to be referred to the federal employment programs.

Makes this section effective immediately.