

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Ruud and others

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Analyst: Lynn Aves, 651-296-8079

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Overview

This bill authorizes the commissioner of human services to fund a pilot project to evaluate the impact of children's emotional and mental health needs on their parents' ability to obtain and retain employment. The pilot is to provide screening, assessment, and follow up services to children and their families. Parents' participation in the follow up services will be incorporated into their MFIP employment plan and will count as work activity.

Section

1 Minnesota family investment program and children's mental health pilot project.

Subd. 1. Pilot project authorized. Instructs the commissioner of human services to fund a two-year pilot project to measure the impact of children's mental health needs on MFIP participants' ability to obtain and retain employment.

Subd. 2. Provider and agency proposals.

- Authorizes MFIP providers and agencies to submit proposals regarding how they will identify participants whose employment is hindered by their child's mental health needs, how they will connect the family with services, and how they will incorporate services into the participant's employment plan.
- Provides that MFIP providers and agencies shall develop a procedure to inform participants of the availability of screening tools to assess their

Section

children's needs, the purpose of the screenings, how the screenings will be used, and that the participant's employment plan may be modified based on the screening results.

Subd. 3. Program components. Instructs MFIP providers to obtain each individual's consent to participate in the pilot project and screening processes and to coordinate with agencies and health plans to implement the screening results. States that the commissioner of human services shall approve the screening tools.

Subd. 4. Program evaluation. Sets out the components of the program evaluation.

Subd. 5. Work activity. Provides that participation in screenings and subsequent follow-up services shall count as work activity under section 256J.49, subdivision 13. Chapter 256J is the MFIP statute, and the section referenced contains the definition of "work activity."

2 Appropriation. Appropriates monies to the commissioner of human services to fund the pilot project for the biennium.