

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies requirements for chemical use assessments and clarifies the county of financial responsibility for chemical use assessments. It allows chemical use assessors to have a financial conflict of interest under specified circumstances. It requires the commissioner of human services to make three reports to the legislature regarding chemical health, and imposes duties on the commissioner to provide chemical health information to agencies.

Section

1 Assessor standards; rules; assessment time limits. Amends § 169A.70, subd. 4. Allows an assessor to have a financial conflict of interest subject to the conditions specified in section 254A.20, subdivision 3.

2 Effective date. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
Chemical use assessment. Creates § 254A.20.

Subd. 1. Persons arrested outside of home county. Provides that when a chemical use assessment (Rule 25) is required, the assessment must be completed by the county of the person's residence within three weeks after the assessment is requested. If not performed within this time, then the county where the person is to be sentenced is to perform the assessment. The county of financial responsibility is determined by chapter 256G.

Subd. 2. Probation officer as contact. Provides that when a Rule 25 assessment is

Section

required for a person on probation or under supervision, the assessor shall contact the person's probation officer to verify or supplement information provided by the person.

Subd. 3. Financial conflict of interest. (a) States that except as provided in paragraph (b), a Rule 25 assessor may not have direct or shared financial interest with a treatment provider.

(b) Permits a county to contract with an assessor who has a conflict if the county documents the following:

- the assessor is employed by a culturally specific provider or by a program designed to treat individuals of a specific age, sex, or sexual preference;
- if the county does not employ a sufficient number of qualified assessors; or
- the county has an existing relationship with a service provider and elects to enter into a contract for the service provider to provide both assessment and treatment services, provided the county retains placement decision responsibility.

States that counties are responsible for making placement decisions, and that assessors are prohibited from making placements.

Effective date. This section is effective July 1, 2007, except subdivision 3 is effective July 1, 2009.

3 Duties of the commissioner related to chemical health. Creates § 254A.25. Instructs the commissioner to

- distribute information to assessors on best practices and provide model assessment instruments;
- monitor compliance;
- develop a directory of each licensed chemical dependency treatment program;
- work with the commissioner of health to develop materials for health care organizations on the use of brief interventions for alcohol abuse;
- provide local agencies with best practices guides;
- provide local agencies with statewide data on treatment outcomes; and
- post copies of state licensing reviews online for viewing by agencies that make client placements.

4 Chemical use assessment required. Amends §609.115, subd. 8. Allows an assessor to have a financial conflict of interest subject to the conditions specified in section 254A.20, subdivision 3.

Section

- 5 Recommendations on changing consolidated chemical dependency treatment fund.** Directs the commissioner to report recommendations to the legislature by January 15, 2008, regarding county maintenance of effort requirements. The commissioner is also to report recommendations on the feasibility of posting treatment program peer reviews online for viewing by agencies that make client placements
- 6 Plan for improving community-based substance abuse treatment.** Requires the commissioner to present a plan to the legislature by January 15, 2008, for improving the availability of community-based substance abuse treatment.