

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Chemical use assessments

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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 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 **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 3 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 256G.

Subd. 2. Probation officer as contact. Provides that when a Rule 25 assessment is 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 assessor is employed by a culturally specific provider or by a program designed to treat individuals of a specific age, sex, or sexual preference, or if the county does not employ a sufficient number of qualified assessors.

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.

2 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 on-line for viewing by agencies that make client placements.

3 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 on-line for viewing by agencies that make client placements

4 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.