

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Gives priority to serving at-risk parents and children in ECFE programs when funds are limited, directs ECFE program providers to submit a plan to the education commissioner for approval, increases ECFE revenue and the amount school districts may levy for home visiting programs, directs the education commissioner to expand the kindergarten readiness assessment, and provides for parent education grants.

Section

- 1** **Program characteristics.** Directs limited Early Childhood Family Education funds to be used for at-risk parents and children. Allows Early Childhood Family Education programs to use DHS recommendations about early learning for children birth to age three or MDE recommendations about early childhood progress for children ages three to five.
- 2** **Program accountability plan.** Directs ECFE providers to submit to the education commissioner a plan that describes the parent education program and ensures the participation of diverse families.
- 3** **Revenue.** Increases the revenue for Early Childhood Family Education programs for fiscal year 2008 and later.
- 4** **Home visiting levy.** Increases from \$1.60 to \$3.20 the amount that school districts may levy for home visiting programs and includes hospital visits for families with newborn children in the program.
- 5** **Parent education grants.**

Section

Subd. 1. Establishment; application. (a) Establishes a two-year grant program in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to permit community-based organizations to provide parent education to diverse underserved families. Requires the programs to be collaborative and delivered through community-based networks.

(b) Makes qualified community-based organizations able to coordinate providers eligible for the grants. Requires grant applicants to provide the education commissioner with information about the applicant's qualifications.

Subd. 2. Grant awards and proceeds. (a) Allows the commissioner to award grants throughout the state to qualified organizations.

(b) Allows the commissioner to award grants throughout the state to qualified organizations.

Subd. 3. Evaluation. Directs the commissioner to provide for an evaluation of the grantees and to report to the legislature.

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Appropriations; parent education grants. Appropriates unspecified amounts from the general fund to the Education Department in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for the parent education grants.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2007.