

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 585

**DATE:** February 14, 2007

**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** Bly and others

**Subject:** Early childhood screening and assessment

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### Overview

Gives priority to serving at-risk parents and children in ECFE programs when funds are limited, directs the education commissioner to develop an ECFE program accountability plan, 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 early learning guidelines or MDE early childhood indicators of progress.
- 2 Program accountability plan.** Directs the Education Department to develop a program accountability plan that focuses on ECFE families' race, ethnicity, and income demographics and requires programs not meeting the accountability standards to take corrective action.
- 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 Developmental assessment at kindergarten entrance.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Directs the education commissioner to expand the

developmental assessment that school districts voluntarily administer to entering kindergartners and to set biennial milestones for measuring children's progress.

**Subd. 2. Description.** (a) Directs school districts to implement the voluntary school readiness kindergarten assessment according to a specified timeline.

(b) Directs the education commissioner annually by January 15 to report the kindergarten assessment results to the legislature.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2007.

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#### **Parent education grants.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Directs the education commissioner to award grants to organizations that focus on parents with children 0 to 5 from underrepresented populations.

**Subd. 2. Program components.** Requires programs to serve children 0 to kindergarten and their families. Requires grant recipients to: educate parents and providers; enhance families' skills; provide learning experiences that promote children's development; detect children's learning problems; provide information on community resources; provide abuse prevention programs; and provide early childhood services.

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#### **Appropriations.**

**Subd. 1. Department of Education.** Appropriates money from the general fund to the Education Department in the fiscal years designated.

**Subd. 2. Developmental assessment at kindergarten entrance.** Appropriates unspecified amounts in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for the developmental assessments at kindergarten entrance.

**Subd. 3. Parent education grants.** Appropriates unspecified amounts in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for the parent education grants.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2007.