

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 595

DATE: February 16, 2007

Version: As Introduced

Authors: Laine and others

Subject: Newborn Home Visiting Program

Analyst: Emily Cleveland, 651-296-5808

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill establishes a newborn visiting program and creates a grant program to fund certain family home visiting programs. It also appropriates money from the general fund to both of these programs.

Section

1 Universal newborn visiting program. Adds § 145A.18. Creates a newborn visiting program and sets out certain requirements.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of health to create a program for visiting parents of newborns, either in the hospital or as soon as possible after birth. States that the visiting services must be provided by existing service providers, whenever possible.

Subd. 2. Program components. Requires the program provide culturally competent services and information by trained staff that reflect the demographics of the community, if possible.

- States types of information that must be provided to the parents, including information on the following:
 - Early childhood screenings
 - Local child care resource and referral network
 - Child care financial aid programs

- Child abuse prevention
- Infant care and child growth and development
- Immunization schedules and pediatric preventive care
- Requires that the program provide referrals to community partners and additional community resources and offer follow-up visits.
- Requires that parents have the option to opt out of the program.

Subd. 3. Coordination. States that the program must not impede or obstruct the provision of medical care. Requires coordination between the program and other local groups to minimize duplication of services.

Subd. 4. Evaluation and accountability. Directs the commissioner to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and report the findings to the legislature biennially, beginning January 15, 2010.

Subd. 5. Training. Directs the commissioner to establish education requirements for visiting staff that include a bachelor's degree and experience working in culturally diverse communities.

Subd. 6. Distribution. Provides for funds to be given to community health boards and directs the health boards to contract with home visiting providers to provide these services.

2

Family home visiting grant program. Adds § 145A.19.

Subd. 1. Administration. Creates a grant program to deliver early childhood home visitation services and education to certain low-income persons and families that fall at or below the 250 percent federal poverty guidelines.

Subd. 2. Program components. Requires programs that receive this grant to meet the same requirements as the family home visiting program, which is currently in statute.

- Requires certain information to be offered, including information on the following:
 - Early childhood screenings
 - Local child care resource and referral network
 - Early childhood family education and special education
 - Child abuse prevention
 - Infant care and child growth and development
 - Immunization schedules and pediatric preventive care
- Requires programs to provide referrals to additional community resources
- Requires programs to offer center-based or group meetings at least once a month for families with additional needs

Subd. 3. Training and technical assistance. Requires the commissioner to provide training or technical assistance on the following:

- Effective methods of implementing and conducting the goals of the grant program

- Strategies for assisting families with special needs and coping with crisis
- Recruiting and retaining qualified staff
- Increasing services to the underserved
- Positive parenting methods
- Ongoing program quality evaluation and improvement
- Issues of child welfare and protective services

Subd. 4. Evaluation and accountability. Directs the commissioner to conduct biennial evaluations of programs that receive this grant beginning January 15, 2009. Requires the commissioner of education to assign a MARSS number to children participating in programs funded by this grant.

Subd. 5. Applications. Sets out requirements for programs that receive a grant under this section. States that grantees must coordinate multidisciplinary visiting teams and demonstrate experience and ability to provide culturally competent home visiting programs. States the requirements for information that must be included on the application form.

Subd. 6. No supplanting of existing funds. Allows funding from this grant program to supplement, but not replace, existing nonstate funds for home visiting services.

3

Appropriations. Provides for two appropriations.

- Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the universal newborn visiting program for the 2008-2009 biennium.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the family home visiting grant program for the 2008-2009 biennium. Allocates certain percentages of the appropriation for evaluations and training and technical assistance.