

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill changes the family home visiting program in current law and appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to this program.

Section

1

Family home visiting programs. Amends § 145A.17. Adds to the goals of the current family home visiting programs.

Subd. 1. Establishment; goals.

- Removes the provision that these visiting programs are directed at children in families at or below 200 percent the federal poverty guidelines.
- Requires the commissioner to promote collaboration among the teams of professionals that perform visits from the fields of public health nursing, social work and early childhood education.
- Requires that preference be given to the lowest-income families and families that fall under certain criteria. Adds homeless and other factors that may be determined by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. (Repealed under current law.)

Subd. 3. Requirements for programs; process.

(a) Requires a program that receives funding to provide the commissioner with a written plan that describes its approach. States certain requirements that all programs must meet to receive funding.

(b) Lists certain multidisciplinary partners that may be included in the visiting program. States that the visiting programs must meet certain requirements, most of which are already in statute, except connecting families with other community resources is an added requirement. States that visiting programs must offer group meetings at least once per month, when possible, for families with additional needs.

Subd. 4. Training. Requires the commissioner to provide training for home visitors and lists seven requirements of that training, including the following:

- Building effective relationships with families
- Effective methods of parent education and home visit conduct
- Early childhood development to age five
- Diverse cultural practices
- Recruiting, supervising and retaining staff
- Increasing services to the underserved
- Child welfare and protective services

Subd. 5. Technical assistance. (No change to current law)

Subd. 6. Outcome and performance measures. Adds to the areas in which the commissioner must determine ways to measure outcomes, including the following:

- Rates of children accessing quality early care and education services
- Program retention rates
- Number of home visits performed versus the number planned
- Participant satisfaction

Subd. 7. Evaluation. Requires children participating in home visiting programs to receive a MARSS number, which is assigned by the department of education.

Subd. 8. Report. (No change to current law)

Subd. 9. No supplanting of existing funds. (No change to current law)

Subd. 10. Submitting plans. Sets out the requirements for the plans that must be

submitted to the commissioner by programs that receive funding. Requires the commissioner to provide forms for these plans and states certain information that must be included on the forms.

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