

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 986 **DATE:** April 29, 2009  
**Version:** Third engrossment  
**Authors:** Thissen and others  
**Subject:** County maintenance of effort (mental health)  
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### Overview

This bill modifies county maintenance of effort requirements for mental health services.

#### Section

#### **1 County maintenance of effort.** Amends § 245.4835.

**Subd. 1. Required expenditures.** Paragraph (b) requires the commissioner to:

- use a county's prior year revenues to determine the county's minimum required expenditures for the coming year;
- allocate a county's revenues proportionally across expenditures; and
- reduce a county's base to allow for major decreases in state or federal block grants or other revenues. This applies to changes beyond a county's control and expires December 31, 2011.

Paragraph (c) permits the commissioner to:

- use more current information regarding major changes in revenue to allow counties time to adjust their budgets; and
- reduce a county's base if the county's population is declining and the county's per capita mental health expenditures are higher than the state average.

**Subd. 2. Failure to maintain expenditures.** Under current law, a county must develop a corrective action plan if it fails to maintain expenditures. The bill requires the commissioner to consider specific factors when determining whether to approve a corrective action plan:

- the degree to which the county is maximizing revenue from noncounty sources to pay for mental health services; and
- the degree to which a county is expanding its use of alternative services to meet

mental health needs, but do not count as mental health services in the current reporting system.