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### Overview

**This bill modifies requirements related to special transportation services and level of need determinations, and prohibits the commissioner of human services from using a broker or coordinator to manage or dispatch special transportation services.**

#### Section

- 1 Level of need determination.** Amends § 256B.04, subd. 14a. Allows county social workers to perform nonemergency medical transportation level of need determinations. Requires all level of need determinations to use a form prescribed by the commissioner that is designed to determine a recipient's appropriate level of need.
- 2 Transportation costs.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 17. The amendment to paragraph (a) requires medical transportation to be provided by: (1) an ambulance; (2) special transportation service; (3) access transportation service; or (4) other common carrier.

The amendments to paragraph (b):

- Strike the definition of special transportation in current law (a modified definition is provided in paragraph (d)).
- Require the commissioner to certify the need for special transportation services by use of a level of need determination.
- Requires special transportation providers to use the quickest (rather than "most direct" as in current law) route available, and requires this to be determined by a commercially available software program approved by the commissioner.
- Provides that the reimbursement rates specified in law are "minimum" rates (current law provides that these rates are "maximum" rates).

A new paragraph (c) requires special transportation providers, in addition to meeting

standards of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, to meet the following requirements:

- The driver must wear a uniform with company identification, and be subject to federal drug and alcohol testing requirements.
- Vehicles must be covered by commercial business auto insurance in an amount equal to or greater than \$1,000,000 for a combined single limit.

A new paragraph (d) defines medical transportation, special transportation, and access transportation service. “Special transportation” is defined as “nonemergency medical transportation to or from a covered service for a recipient who has a physical or mental impairment that prohibits the recipient from independently and safely accessing and using a bus, taxi, other commercial transportation, or private automobile.” Also requires special transportation to be provided by a special transportation service (as defined in § 174.29, subdivision 1) that meets the Minnesota Department of Transportation standards set in rule.

A new paragraph (e) requires the commissioner of human services to amend the agency rule on medical transportation to incorporate the changes in this act, using the good cause exemption from the standard rulemaking process that applies in cases where no interpretation of law is required.

- 3 **Access transportation services.** Amends § 256B.0625, by adding subd. 17b. Specifies that payment for access transportation, and the provision of these services, shall be coordinated by the Minnesota Non-Emergency Transportation program in the 11-county metropolitan area.
- 4 **Broker dispatching prohibition.** Amends § 256B.0625, by adding subd. 17c. Prohibits the commissioner from using a broker or coordinator to manage or dispatch special transportation services. Limits the role of the broker or coordinator to the performance of level of need determinations.