

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Shimanski and others

Subject: Establishing finger imaging system for assistance applicants and recipients

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of human services to establish a finger imaging system to be used in determining eligibility for public assistance and preventing multiple enrollments in assistance programs. All public assistance recipients and applicants shall be required to be finger imaged.

Section

1 Public Assistance; Finger Imaging System. Amends Chapter 256 by adding § 256.0161.

Subd. 1. Establishment; purpose. Requires the commissioner of human services to establish and implement a finger imaging system by July 1, 2010. Requires all public assistance recipients and applicants to be finger imaged as a condition of eligibility for assistance. Provides that the finger images shall be used only for purposes of determining eligibility for assistance and preventing multiple enrollments. Provides an exception for use of finger images in the case of a criminal court order.

Subd. 2. Duties; authority.

- (a) Requires the commissioner to: (1) implement a finger imaging system in all counties and provides that 50% of the cost shall be paid by the commissioner and 50% shall be paid by the counties; (2) maintain and manage a centralized database of the images; and (3) notify applicants of public assistance of the imaging requirements at time of application.
- (b) Allows the commissioner to develop a competitive request for proposals and allows the commissioner to contract with a firm the commissioner deems able to design and implement the system.

Subd. 3. Suspected fraud; penalties. For cases of suspected fraud, requires the commissioner to develop a procedure for manual verification of fingerprints and a hearing process for applicants and recipients. Provides that penalties for fraud shall not be imposed

without manual verification and a hearing.

Subd. 4. Report. Requires that the commissioner provide an annual written report beginning July 1, 2011, to the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over human services, ranking minority leaders, and the governor. The report is to include a comparison of caseload data before and after implementation of the finger imaging system; attempts and instances of multiple enrollments; an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the system; and recommendations to improve the system.

2 Effective Date. Makes this section effective July 1, 2009.