

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

**This bill establishes a program to provide income tax credits to certain caregivers.**

#### Section

- 1 Long-term care consultation team.** Amends § 256B.0911, subd. 3. Provides criteria for long-term care consultation teams to use when screening persons applying for the Minnesota home care credit. Requires that the care provided by the caregiver has received a score as provided in section 2.
- 2 Duties with respect to home care credit; applications.** Amends § 256B.0917, by adding subd. 6a. Requires the commissioner of human services to develop a scale for scoring each application for the home care credit. The score must measure hours per week of care provided, the volume and type of assistance provided, and other criteria the commissioner determines to be pertinent. Directs caregivers to submit applications for scoring to the commissioner by February 15th of the year following the year in which the care was provided, and requires the commissioner to score applications by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Requires the commissioner to then rank order applications based on the score received, and to approve applications in that order so that the total amount allocated for the credit for the year is within the appropriations made for the home care credit. Authorizes the commissioner to delegate scoring to “appropriate organizations.”
- 3 Minnesota home care credit.** Adds § 290.0678. Provides income tax credits for certain caregivers.

**Subdivision 1. Definitions.** States that the terms used have the following meanings, unless otherwise provided.

**Subd. 2. Caregiver.** Defines “caregiver” as an individual who provides unpaid assistance on a daily basis that qualifies as personal care services under MA, to a

service recipient in either the individual's or service recipient's principal residence.

**Subd. 3. Service recipient.** Defines "service recipient" as an individual who: (1) is the spouse, parent, stepparent, sibling, stepsibling, child, stepchild, grandparent, or stepgrandparent of the taxpayer; (2) does not reside in a setting licensed by the commissioners of health or human services; and (3) has been screened by a long-term care consultation team and determined eligible for placement in a nursing home or other long-term facility.

**Subd. 4. Credit allowed.** Provides individuals with an income tax credit equal to \$200 for each month during the tax year that an individual is a caregiver for a service recipient, subject to a \$2,400 maximum credit in a tax year. Specifies related requirements.

**Subd. 5. Credit limitations.** Limits eligibility for the credit to persons who have:

- been approved for a credit under the scoring program specified in section 2;
- total household income that does not exceed the maximum level eligible for a refund under § 290A.04, subd. 2 (homeowner property tax refund, which has a maximum eligible income of \$96,939 for claims filed in 2009); and
- been certified by a long-term care consultation team.

Reduces the credit to \$100 for any month in which a qualifying person receives more than four hours per day on average of federal, state, or county-funded home care services.

**Subd. 6. Credit refundable.** If the amount of credit a claimant is eligible to receive exceeds the claimant's tax liability, requires the commissioner to refund the excess.

**Subd. 7. Caregiver training.** For each year a credit is claimed, requires the caregiver to participate in at least eight hours of caregiver training, education, or counseling, or caregiver support group sessions.

States that this section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.