

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1135

DATE: March 15, 2012

Version: First engrossment

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Subject: Marriage dissolution education

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Overview

This bill imposes a marriage dissolution education requirement on parents with minor children who are filing for marriage dissolution or legal separation.

- 1 **Parenting plans.** Amends §480.30, by adding subd. 4. Requires ongoing parenting plan training for district court judges.
- 2 **Parent education program requirements.** Amends §518.091, subd. 2. Clarifies that the parent education program requirement applies in marriage dissolutions and legal separations. Adds a cross reference to the new section of law created in this bill. Requires completion of the parent education program prior to the first appearance or within 30 days of filing.
- 3 **Marriage dissolution and legal separation education requirements.** Amends §518.159.

Subd. 1. Application. Provides that this section applies to marriage dissolutions and legal separations involving children.

Subd. 2. Participation requirements. Requires parents to attend a four hour marriage dissolution education program prior to the first court appearance or within 30 days of filing, whichever is sooner. Requires the parents to submit a certificate of completion to the court. Allows the court to exempt a party upon a showing of good cause. Allows judges and referees to order unmarried parents to attend parent education programs.

Subd. 3. Program requirements. Allows the education program to be completed in person or on-line. Lists and describes the required components of the programs. Provides that current parent education programs implemented by district courts in Minnesota are eligible programs under September 1, 2014, if the program meets the required components of the program. After September 1, 2014, the program must also meet the scientific requirements of this subdivision.

Subd. 4. Costs and program providers. Requires each program to implement a sliding fee scale. Provides that if a parent qualifies for a waiver of fees, that parent does not have to pay the program fee.

Effective date. Provides that this section applies to proceedings that are initiated on or after

January 1, 2013.

- 4** **Repealer.** Repeals §§13.465, subd. 9 (data classification for parent education programs); and 518.157 (parent education program in proceedings involving children).

Effective date. Provides that this section is effective January 1, 2013.