

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Modifying provisions related to the Department of Health (MDH)

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Overview

This bill amends provisions related to the cost of providing health records and the release of health records. It requires certain public reporting by hospitals and transfers certain duties of MDH to Commerce. It also requires a study on for-profit health maintenance organizations (HMOs).

- 1 Cost.** Amends § 144.292, subd. 6. Modifies a provision related to the cost of providing a patient with copies of a health record. Removes a paragraph that prohibits providers from charging fees for copies if requested by a patient for purposes of appealing a denial of certain Social Security benefits.
- 2 Patient consent to release of records.** Amends § 144.293, subd. 2. Modifies a provision related to the release of health records by limiting providers' release of health records based on a representation that a provider holds a signed and dated record of patient consent to cases of medical emergency.
- 3 Patient safety survey.** Adds § 144.586. Requires hospitals licensed in the state to submit information to the Leapfrog Group as a method for publicly reporting patient safety measures.
- 4 Transfer of health economics program.** Transfers the duties of the health economics program conducted under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62J, to the commissioner of commerce.
- 5 Study of for-profit health maintenance organizations.** Requires the commissioner of health to contract with an entity to study efficiency, cost, service quality and enrollee satisfaction data for for-profit HMOs relative to the non-profit HMOs. Requires a report on the findings by January 15, 2013.