

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill repeals the MFIP family cap.

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is a jointly funded, federal-state program designed to provide income assistance for eligible low-income families. MFIP replaces the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, which was repealed by Congress in 1996.

The 2003 Legislature limited MFIP cash benefits for MFIP recipients who have additional children. MFIP assistance units are prohibited from receiving an increase in the cash portion of the transitional standard as a result of the birth of a child, unless:

- for families receiving MFIP assistance on July 1, 2003, the child is born to the adult parent before May 1, 2004;
- for families who apply for DWP or MFIP assistance on or after July 1, 2003, the child is born to the adult parent within ten months of the date the family is eligible for assistance;
- the child was conceived as a result of a sexual assault or incest, provided that the incident has been reported to a law enforcement agency;
- the child's mother is a minor caregiver and the child, or multiple children, are the mother's first birth;
- the child is the mother's first child subsequent to a pregnancy that did not result in a live birth; or
- the adult parent or parents have not received DWP benefits or MFIP assistance in the previous ten months.

This applies to any child previously excluded in determining family size. An excluded child must be included in determining family size for the purposes of determining the food portion of the transitional standard and is deemed an MFIP recipient for purposes of child care eligibility.

The income and resources of an excluded child, except child support received or distributed on behalf of the child, must be considered using the same policies as for other children when determining the grant amount of the assistance unit. The caregiver must assign support and cooperate with child support enforcement to establish paternity and collect child support on behalf of the excluded child.

County agencies are required to inform applicants of this provision at the time of application and at recertification.

Section

1 **Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Statutes, § 256J.24, subd. 6 (family cap).