

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2095
Version: First engrossment

DATE: March 5, 2014

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Subject: Children's mental health screenings and assessments

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Overview

This bill modifies the procedures for children's mental health screenings and diagnostic assessments.

Section

1 **Duties of county board.** Amends § 245.4874, subd. 1. Paragraph (a) allows a county to perform children's mental health screening or diagnostic assessment even if the child has had a screening within the past 180 days.

Paragraph (c) modifies parental consent requirements for screenings and assessments of children found to be delinquent so that the consent requirements are the same as those required for screenings and assessments of children found to be dependent. As amended, the court or county agency must notify the parents before a screening is conducted and inform them that they can prevent the screening by notifying the court or county agency of their objection in writing.

Paragraph (d) permits the county agency, when a mental health screening indicates the need for an assessment, to have the assessment conducted if the family lacks health insurance to cover the cost or is underinsured and hardship would result if the family was required to pay for the assessment. Eliminates a prohibition on screening data collection by the Department of Human Services. Requires the county agencies to report how funding is used.

Paragraph (f) prohibits the Department of Human Services from using screening and assessment data in department background checks.