

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill modifies child care assistance redeterminations.

Child care assistance programs subsidize the child care expenses of eligible low-income families. The Minnesota Department of Human Services administers two child care assistance programs: Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) child care assistance and Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care assistance. MFIP child care subsidizes the child care costs of families receiving cash assistance through MFIP and provides child care assistance for eligible families for the first 12 months after the family leaves MFIP cash assistance (transition year child care). BSF child care provides a child care subsidy to low-income working families who are not receiving cash assistance from MFIP.

County agencies or their contractors must determine eligibility within 30 days of receiving a request for child care assistance. Currently, eligibility must be redetermined every six months, except for families where at least one parent is under age 21, does not have a high school or general equivalency diploma, and is a student in a school district or another similar program that provides or arranges for child care and other services. For these families, eligibility redeterminations are deferred beyond six months, but not to exceed 12 months, to the end of the student's school year.

### Section

- 1 Factors which must be verified.** Amends § 119B.025, subd. 1. Removes language related to redeterminations. This language is moved to the new subdivision 3.

**Section**

- 2**      **Redeterminations.** Amends § 119B.025, by adding subd. 3. Moves language related to redetermining eligibility for child care assistance programs from subdivision 1 to this subdivision. Changes the required timing of redeterminations from every six months to every 12 months. Adds language specifying eligibility for families transitioning from the MFIP child care program, transition year child care program, or transition year extension child care program to the BSF program must be redetermined within 12 months of the date the BSF case is opened. Specifies the process counties and participants must follow if there is a change in an eligibility factor between regularly scheduled redeterminations. Requires parental fees to be reviewed upon a reported change or at the time of redetermination. Specifies the timing of implementing new parental fees.