

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains DHS children and family services policy provisions related to contractual agreements with tribes, child care assistance programs, MFIP, community action agencies, and reporting maltreatment.

Section

- 1 General.** Amends § 13.46, subd. 2. Modifies the Data Practices Act to allow child welfare agencies access to child support data on the child, the parents, and relatives of the child. Current law allows sharing of information about the child and parents only.
- 2 Contractual agreements with tribes.** Amends § 119B.02, subd. 2. Modifies contractual agreements with tribes related to the payment of child care assistance services.
- 3 Maximum child care assistance.** Amends § 119B.09, subd. 6. Clarifies the maximum amount of child care assistance a local agency may pay for in a two-week period is 120 hours per child.
- 4 Child care in the child's home.** Amends § 119B.09, subd. 13. Modifies the circumstances under which child care may be authorized in the child's home under the child care assistance programs. Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.
- 5 Personal statement.** Amends § 256D.05, by adding subd. 9. Allows county agencies to accept a signed personal statement from an applicant in lieu of documentation verifying ineligibility if the county agency determines that an applicant is ineligible due to not meeting GA eligibility requirements.

Section

- 6** **Verification.** Amends § 256D.405, subd. 1. Allows county agencies to accept a signed personal statement from an applicant in lieu of documentation verifying ineligibility if the county agency determines that an applicant is ineligible due to not meeting MSA eligibility requirements.
- 7** **Merger.** Amends § 256E.30, by adding subd. 5. Specifies the base funding amount when community action agencies merge.
- 8** **County approval.** Amends § 256I.04, subd. 1a. Allows county agencies to accept a signed personal statement from an applicant in lieu of documentation verifying ineligibility if the county agency determines that an applicant is ineligible due to not meeting GRH eligibility requirements.
- 9** **Submitting application form.** Amends § 256J.09, subd. 3. Modifies county agency duties at the time MFIP application forms are offered. Allows interviews to be conducted face-to-face in the county office, through Internet telepresence, or at a location mutually agreed upon.
- 10** **Other property limitations.** Amends § 256J.20, subd. 3. Modifies MFIP vehicle asset limits by changing the maximum value from a loan value to a trade-in value of \$10,000.
- 11** **Income exclusions.** Amends § 256J.21, subd. 2. Modifies the list of excluded income items when determining a family's income eligibility for MFIP by modifying the exclusion of adoption assistance payments to update a cross-reference and include enhanced adoption assistance payments in the exclusion.
- 12** **Individuals who must be excluded from an assistance unit.** Amends § 256J.24, subd. 3. Modifies the list of individuals who are ineligible to receive MFIP by updating the cross-reference to adoption assistance payments and including children receiving enhanced adoption assistance payments on the list of ineligible individuals.
- 13** **Participant's completion of recertification of eligibility form.** Amends § 256J.30, subd. 4. Requires county agencies to end benefits when a participant fails to submit the recertification form and verifications and complete the interview process before the end of the certification period. Allows benefits to be reinstated back to the date of closing when the recertification process is completed during the first month after benefits ended if the participant submits the recertification form by the last day of the recertification period.
- 14** **Requirement to provide Social Security numbers.** Amends § 256J.30, subd. 12. Corrects a cross-reference.
- 15** **Recertification.** Amends § 256J.32, subd. 6. Allows recertification interviews to be conducted by phone, Internet telepresence, or face-to-face in the county office or in another location mutually agreed upon. Removes language limiting phone interviews to employed participants.

Section

- 16 Personal statement.** Amends § 256J.32, subd. 8. Allows county agencies to accept a signed personal statement from an applicant in lieu of documentation verifying ineligibility if the county agency determines that an applicant is ineligible due to exceeding MFIP income and asset limits.
- 17 Scope of underpayments.** Amends § 256J.38, subd. 6. Limits corrective payments to 12 months prior to the month of discovery.
- 18 Work activity.** Amends § 256J.49, subd. 13. Makes technical changes, removes volunteer work from the list of approved work activities, and modifies terminology by replacing “unpaid” with “uncompensated.”
- 19 Assessments.** Amends 256J.521, subd. 1. Eliminates a requirement that the commissioner works with county agencies to develop protocols for referrals and follow-up actions after certain screens are administered to participants. Modifies requirements related to screening for chemical and mental health and special learning needs by broadening who must be screened and changing the timeframe of the screening.
- 20 Employment plan; contents.** Amends § 256J.521, subd. 2. Lengthens the amount of time participants have to job search from six-weeks to three months. Makes technical changes.
- 21 Approval of postsecondary education or training.** Amends § 256J.53, subd. 2. Makes a technical change related to providing documentation for approval of a postsecondary education or training plan.
- 22 Requirements after postsecondary education or training.** Amends § 256J.53, subd. 5. Makes conforming changes related to the length of time allowed for job searches.
- 23 Work participation cash benefits.** Amends § 256J.621. Modifies work participation cash benefits by requiring the county to assess eligibility for the work participation cash benefit within 30 days of a participant exiting the MFIP program. Specifies when payment of the cash benefit begins.
- 24 Innovation projects.** Amends § 256J.626, subd. 5. Broadens the allowable uses of funds set aside for innovation projects to include rewarding high performing counties and tribes and supporting promising practices.
- 25 Base allocation to counties and tribes; definitions.** Amends § 256J.626, subd. 6. Adjusts MFIP consolidated fund allocations to affected counties and the White Earth Band of Ojibwe due to the transfer of responsibility to provide human services programs for tribal members to the tribe.
- 26 Performance base funds.** Amends § 256J.626, subd. 7. Modifies performance base funds beginning in calendar year 2014 by allocating five percent of funds to counties and tribes based on performance on the self-support index rather than allocating these funds based on TANF participation rate targets. Makes technical changes.

Section

- 27 Reporting requirement and reimbursement.** Amends § 256J.626, subd. 8. Removes obsolete language and makes technical changes.
- 28 Community work experience.** Amends § 256J.67. Modifies terminology by replacing “work experience” with “community work experience” and replacing “volunteer” with “uncompensated.”
- 29 Applicability.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 1. Clarifies the programs covered under injury protection for work experience participants, adds cross-references, modifies terminology, and makes technical and conforming changes. Specifies uncompensated work experience programs are considered to be approved by the commissioner if they are included in an approved tribal or county biennial service agreement.
- 30 Investigation of the claim.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 2. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 31 Claims less than \$1,000.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 4. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 32 Exclusive procedure.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 7. Makes technical and conforming changes and adds a cross-reference.
- 33 Invalid claims.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 8. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 34 Quarterly comparison report.** Amends § 256J.751, subd. 2. Prohibits the commissioner from applying federal limits on vocational educational training and education activities when determining TANF work participation rates for individual counties.
- 35 Eligibility.** Amends § 256K.26, subd. 4. Makes tribes eligible for funding under the long-term homeless supportive services fund.
- 36 Termination of parental rights.** Amends § 260C.503, subd. 2. Modifies the list of circumstances under which the county social services agency must ask the county attorney to immediately file a termination of parental rights petition. Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.
- 37 Duties of commissioner.** Amends § 260C.615.
- Subd. 1. Exclusive right to consent.** Modifies requirements for the commissioner to consent to certain medical care plans for children under the commissioner’s guardianship. Authorizes the commissioner to consult with experts regarding a child’s medical care before consenting to the plan.
- Subd. 1a. Other duties.** Makes technical changes.
- Subd. 2. Duties not reserved.** No changes.

Section

- 38** **Trial home visits; voluntary foster care for treatment.** Creates § 260D.12. Allows children in voluntary foster care for treatment to return to the care of a parent on a trial home visit under certain circumstances in order to provide planning and supports to meet the child's needs following treatment so that the child can return to the parent's home. Specifies (1) the social services agency has placement and care responsibility for the child during the trial home visit, and (2) the trial home visit must not exceed six months and may be terminated by either the parent or the agency within ten days' written notice. Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.
- 39** **Definitions.** Amends § 626.556, subd. 2. Modifies the definitions of "sexual abuse" and "report" under the maltreatment of minors act. Makes technical changes. Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.
- 40** **Report.** Amends § 626.556, subd. 7. Requires the local welfare agency assessing reports of maltreatment to accept the report, even if the reporter does not provide a name, provided the report is sufficient in content. Also requires that the agency inform the reporter within ten days whether the report was accepted, if requested by the reporter.
- 41** **Welfare, court services agency, and school records maintained.** Amends § 626.556, subd. 11c. Clarifies that certain maltreatment records be maintained for a period of four years after the date of the final entry in the case record.
- 42** **Reports required.** Amends § 626.5561, subd. 1. Requires local welfare agencies to accept reports of prenatal exposure to controlled substances made by reporters notwithstanding the refusal of the reporter to provide the reporter's name and address, as long as the report is otherwise sufficient.