

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 of minors.

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 their family members. 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 Merger.** Amends § 256E.30, by adding subd. 5. Specifies the base funding amount when community action agencies merge.
- 6 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

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upon.

- 7 **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.
- 8 **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.
- 9 **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.
- 10 **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.
- 11 **Requirement to provide Social Security numbers.** Amends § 256J.30, subd. 12. Corrects a cross-reference.
- 12 **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.
- 13 **Personal statement.** Amends § 256J.32, subd. 8. Allows county agencies to accept a signed personal statement from an applicant as verification after all application requirements are met if the county agency determines that an applicant is ineligible due to exceeding income and asset limits.
- 14 **Scope of underpayments.** Amends § 256J.38, subd. 6. Limits corrective payments to 12 months prior to the month of discovery.
- 15 **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."
- 16 **Assessments.** Amends 256J.521, subd. 1. Modifies requirements related to screening for chemical and mental health and special learning needs by broadening who must be screened and changing the time frame of the screening.
- 17 **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.

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- 18 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.
- 19 Requirements after postsecondary education or training.** Amends § 256J.53, subd. 5. Makes conforming changes related to the length of time allowed for job searches.
- 20 Sanctions.** Amends § 256J.575, subd. 7. Modifies sanctions by creating statutory criteria to determine if a participant has the ability to comply with the family stabilization services plan prior to imposing a sanction.
- 21 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.
- 22 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.
- 23 Reporting requirement and reimbursement.** Amends § 256J.626, subd. 8. Removes obsolete language and makes technical changes.
- 24 Community work experience.** Amends § 256J.67. Modifies terminology by replacing “work experience” with “community work experience” and replacing “volunteer” with “uncompensated.”
- 25 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.
- 26 Investigation of the claim.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 2. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 27 Claims less than \$1,000.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 4. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 28 Exclusive procedure.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 7. Makes technical and conforming changes and adds a cross-reference.
- 29 Invalid claims.** Amends § 256J.68, subd. 8. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 30 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.

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- 31 Eligibility.** Amends § 256K.26, subd. 4. Makes tribes eligible for funding under the long-term homeless supportive services fund.
- 32 Definitions.** Amends § 626.556, subd. 2. Modifies the definition of “report” under the Maltreatment of Minors Act by specifying statements may be oral or written. Makes technical changes.
- 33 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.
- 34 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.
- 35 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.