

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: MA Coverage of Inpatient Care for Inmates

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Overview

This bill provides MA coverage for inpatient health care services provided to persons who are inmates of correctional facilities, while they are an inpatient in a hospital or other medical institution. The bill would allow the state to receive a federal Medicaid match for these inpatient health care services.

Under current state law, persons residing in correctional facilities are not eligible for MA or MinnesotaCare coverage. Persons on MA at the time of incarceration are disenrolled and persons on MinnesotaCare at the time of incarceration remain eligible for state-only funded MinnesotaCare coverage until their renewal date. Persons residing in a correctional facility may apply for MA or MinnesotaCare 45 days before their release.

Under federal Medicaid law, persons who are inmates of public institutions (such as correctional facilities) are generally not eligible for a federal Medicaid match. Federal law provides an exception when these individuals are patients in a medical institution. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued guidance letters that indicate that a federal match is available to inmates once they are admitted as an inpatient in a hospital, nursing facility, juvenile psychiatric facility, or intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities. MA coverage is limited to inpatient services and a federal match is not available for services provided to the inmate on an outpatient basis.

Section

- 1** **Persons detained by law.** Amends § 256B.055, subdivision 14. Provides that an inmate of a public institution (such as a correctional facility), who meets MA eligibility criteria, is eligible for MA coverage of services received while an inpatient in a medical institution. Under current law, inmates of public institutions are not eligible for MA. States that security issues related to the inpatient treatment of an inmate are the responsibility of the county. Provides a January 1, 2014 effective date.