

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Moran and others

Subject: Modifying the MFIP and Child Care Assistance Programs

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Overview

This bill modifies the MFIP and Child Care Assistance Programs, establishes a pilot project, provides directions to the commissioner of management and budget, and instructs the Revisor to change certain terminology.

Section

- 1** **Legislative findings.** Lists legislative findings, including seven out of 10 MFIP recipients are children, children receiving MFIP assistance are living in poverty, and 90 percent of brain development occurs during the first five years of a child's life.
- 2** **Additional revenues; priority.** Amends § 16A.152, subd. 2. Modifies the list of priorities to which the commissioner of management and budget must allocate money when there is a budget surplus.
- 3** **Eligible participants.** Amends § 119B.05, subd. 1. Modifies the list of families eligible for MFIP child care assistance to include MFIP child-only cases if the child is not enrolled in any other early childhood programming.
- 4** **Child well-being.** Amends § 256J.08, by adding subd. 11b. Defines "child well-being."
- 5** **MFIP transitional standard.** Amends § 256J.24, subd. 5. Removes a cross-reference that is repealed in section 11.
- 6** **Duties of the commissioner; MFIP reports.** Creates § 256J.317. Directs the commissioner to include certain information in MFIP monthly reports and trends reports. Requires the commissioner, by February 1, 2014, to make recommendations to the legislature regarding the feasibility of incorporating measures of child well-being into DHS county management

Section

reports or other annual reports.

7 MFIP child well-being pilot project.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a pilot project in up to three counties to determine effective strategies to increase MFIP child well-being. Directs the commissioner of human services to develop the project in consultation with the commissioners of health, education, and the Housing Finance Agency.

Subd. 2. Pilot project goals. Specifies the goals of the pilot project.

Subd. 3. County application; participation. Allows counties to apply to the commissioner to participate in the pilot project. Directs the commissioner to determine the counties that will participate in the pilot project based on the applications received by the commissioner. Requires the commissioner to provide technical assistance to participating counties.

Subd. 4. Services. Lists the services provided under the pilot project. Requires services under the pilot project to begin no later than July 1, 2014.

Subd. 5. Parental participation. Requires the project to allow parents to count participation in approved early childhood programs as an approved MFIP work activity if included in the caregiver's employment plan.

Subd. 6. Report and recommendations. Requires the commissioner of human services to (1) report to the legislature by January 15, 2017, certain specified information related to the pilot project; (2) provide recommendations to the legislature to improve MFIP child well-being outcomes; and (3) expand the project statewide if the results of the pilot project indicate project participants achieved better outcomes.

Subd. 7. Expiration. Makes this section expire June 30, 2016.

8 Direction to commissioner. By February 1, 2014, requires the commissioner of management and budget to report to the legislature on issues associated with incorporating long-term costs and benefits of investments or disinvestments in early childhood programs into state budget estimates, including fiscal notes.

9 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the MFIP child well-being pilot project.

10 Revisor's Instruction. Directs the Revisor of Statutes to substitute terms "Minnesota Families and Children Assistance Program" for "Minnesota Family Investment Program" and "MFCAP" for "MFIP" wherever they appear.

11 Repealer. Repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 256J.24, subd. 6 (family cap).