

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

Article 1. Northstar Care for Children

Overview

This article modifies provisions of Northstar Care for Children.

- 1 **Contribution amount.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 252.27, subd. 2a by adding a cross reference to chapter 256N, Northstar Care for Children.
- 2 **Children eligible for subsidized adoption assistance.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256B.055, subd. 1. Adds a cross reference to chapter 256N, Northstar Care for Children.
- 3 **Licensed child foster parent.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256N.02, by adding subdivision 14a. Defines “licensed child foster parent” as a person licensed for child foster care under relevant Minnesota Rules, or by a Minnesota tribe.
- 4 **Placement in foster care.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256N.21, subd. 2. Provides that a child in out-of-home placement is eligible for foster care benefits when the legally responsible agency has placement authority and
 - ▶ the child is placed with a licensed child foster parent, or
 - ▶ the child is in an unlicensed foster care setting: emergency relative placement, a licensed adult foster home, an independent living setting, or pre-adoptive placement.

Section

- 5** **Background study.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256N.21, by adding subd. 7. Paragraph (a) requires a county or private agency to conduct a background study for child foster care licensing in accordance with chapter 245C and the Adam Walsh Act.
- Paragraph (b) requires a Minnesota tribe to conduct a background study for purposes of child foster care licensing in accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act and, when applicable, the Adam Walsh Act.
- 6** **Exclusions.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256N.22, subd. 6. Adds that the commissioner shall not enter into a guardianship assistance agreement with the stepparent of a child.
- 7** **General eligibility requirements.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256N.22, subd. 1. Clarifies tribal social service agency responsibility in order for a child to be eligible for Northstar adoption assistance.
- 8** **Timing of and request for reassessments.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256N.24, subd. 9. Provides that for a child in continuous foster care when six months have elapsed since the last assessment, a reassessment must be completed within 30 days, and annually thereafter.
- 9** **Caregiver requests for reassessments.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256N.24, subd. 10. Allows a caregiver to request a reassessment if at least six months have passed since the previous assessment or reassessment. New paragraph (d) provides that when a kinship assistance or adoption assistance agreement is signed by all parties, a reassessment cannot be requested or conducted until the agreement goes into effect or expires.
- 10** **Financial considerations.** Amends § 257.85, subd. 11. Modifies the method used by the commissioner to reimburse the local agency for relative custody assistance payments.
- 11** **Parental responsibilities.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 259.35, subd. 1. To the notice provided to prospective adoptive parents, adds cross references to Northstar Care for children and to section 260C.635 on the legal effect of adoption.
- 12** **Study required before placement; certain relatives excepted.** Amends § 259.41, subd. 1. Updates cross references.
- 13** **Certain convictions; prospective adoptive parents; disqualification for adoption assistance.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 609B.445. Adds a cross reference to Northstar Care for Children. Disqualifies individuals who have been convicted of certain offenses from receiving adoption assistance.

Section

Article 2. Other Children and Family Services Provisions

Overview

The article makes changes to Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) special needs and Group Residential Housing (GRH) provisions.

- 1 **Special needs.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 256D.44, subd. 5. Modifies MSA special needs housing provisions by removing limits on the number of housing units in a multifamily building that may be occupied by recipients of this program.
- 2 **License required.** Amends § 256I.04, subd. 2a. Modifies the list of types of residences that may be used to provide GRH services to include residences licensed by the commissioner of human services as community residential settings.

Article 3. Licensing

Overview

This article modifies training requirements, issuance of correction orders, and background study requirements for contractors serving multiple license holders.

- 1 **Reduction of risk of sudden unexpected infant death in licensed programs.** Amends Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, § 245A.1435. Adds that a correction order for violation of the safe sleep requirement shall not be issued unless the violation occurred when an infant was present in the license holder's care. New paragraph (e) requires license holders to show a safe sleep space is available for each infant present in the license holder's care.
- 2 **Contractors serving multiple family child care license holders.** Creates § 245A.1511. Allows contractors who serve multiple family child care providers to request that the county agency keep a record of the contractor's background study results and record of compliance with training requirements.
- 3 **Sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma training.** Creates § 245A.50, subd. 5. Modifies the requirements for sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma training. Requires the training be completed in person at least once every two years. On alternate years the training must be received through a video of no more than one hour in length. Provides an effective date of January 1, 2015.
- 4 **Current or prospective contractors serving multiple family child care license holders.** Amends § 245C.04, by adding subd. 7. Permits contractors serving multiple providers within a single county to have only one background study which is transferable to all settings in the county if the county agency maintains a copy of the background study, the provider contacts the county agency and verifies that the contractor is allowed to have direct contact with children, and the background study is repeated every two years.

