

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Quam

Subject: Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

Analyst: Danyell A. Punelli

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Overview

This bill establishes a demonstration project to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Section

1 Demonstration project; employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Creates § 256C.31.

Subd. 1. Demonstration project established. Requires the commissioner of human services to establish a demonstration project to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities that removes disincentives for persons with disabilities to obtain employment or increase their income. Allows a person with disabilities to obtain employment, accept a raise or promotion, or increase the number of hours worked; keep a portion of the increased earned income; and maintain eligibility for any public assistance programs or Minnesota health care programs serving the person at the time of enrollment in the project. Requires the commissioner to establish eligibility and income reporting requirements for the project and to operate the project within the limits of available appropriations.

Subd. 2. Sliding fee scale. Requires the commissioner to establish a sliding fee scale for persons participating in the demonstration project whose income, because of increased employment, exceeds the income limits for public assistance programs or Minnesota health care programs serving project participants. Requires a project participant to pay a monthly co-payment equal to 50 percent of the amount by which the participant's income exceeds the income limits for the public assistance or

Section

Minnesota health care program serving the participant at the time the person enrolled in the project. Requires the commissioner to determine co-payment amounts for project participants every six months, beginning six months after a person enrolls in the project. Prohibits co-payments for a person whose income does not exceed the income limits applicable to that person.

Subd. 3. Consultation required. Requires the commissioner to consult with the Council on Disability and the commissioner of employment and economic development on the development and implementation of the demonstration project to ensure there are no duplications of services.

Subd. 4. Report to legislature. Requires the commissioner to report to the legislature by January 15, 2017, and every two years thereafter, on various aspects of the demonstration project.

- 2 **Federal waiver or approval.** Requires the commissioner of human services to seek all federal waivers or approvals needed to implement the demonstration project to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- 3 **Appropriation; employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.** Appropriates unspecified amounts in each year of the 2016-17 biennium from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to establish a demonstration project to provide employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.