

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Group Residential Housing (GRH)

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### Overview

This bill modifies the GRH program.

GRH is a state program that provides payments on behalf of eligible persons to pay for room and board and related housing services. In order to be eligible for GRH payments, an individual must have county approval for residence in a GRH setting and must: (1) be aged, blind, or over 18 years of age and disabled and meet specified income and asset standards; or (2) belong to a category of individuals potentially eligible for GA and meet specified income and asset standards.

#### Section

- 1** **Providers of group residential housing or supplementary services.** Amends § 245C.03, by adding subd. 10. Requires the commissioner to conduct background studies on any individual required under the GRH statute. Makes this section effective July 1, 2016.
- 2** **Providers of group residential housing or supplementary services.** Amends § 245C.10, by adding subd. 11. Requires the commissioner to recover the cost of background studies initiated by GRH or supplementary services providers through a fee of no more than \$20 per study. Appropriates the background study fees to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies. Makes this section effective July 1, 2016.
- 3** **Authority and purpose.** Amends § 256.017, subd. 1. Adds the GRH program to the DHS compliance system.
- 4** **Group residential housing.** Amends § 256I.03, subd. 3. Modifies the definition of “group residential housing.”

**Section**

- 5**        **Countable income.** Amends § 256I.03, subd. 7. Modifies the definition of “countable income.”
- 6**        **Direct contact.** Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 9. Adds a definition of “direct contact.”
- 7**        **Habitability inspection.** Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 10. Adds a definition of “habitability inspection.”
- 8**        **Long-term homelessness.** Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 11. Adds a definition of “long-term homelessness.”
- 9**        **Professional certification.** Amends § 256I.03, subd. 12. Adds a definition of “professional certification.”
- 10**       **Prospective budgeting.** Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 13. Adds a definition of “prospective budgeting.”
- 11**       **Qualified professional.** Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 14. Adds a definition of “qualified professional.”
- 12**       **Supportive housing.** Amends § 256I.03, by adding subd. 15. Adds a definition of “supportive housing.”
- 13**       **Eligibility for Group Residential Housing Payment.** Amends § 256I.04.

**Subd. 1. Individual eligibility requirements.** Modifies individual eligibility requirements under the GRH program.

**Subd. 1a. County approval.** Modifies the county approval process for supplementary service payments.

**Subd. 1b. Optional state supplements to SSI.** No changes.

**Subd. 1c. Interim assistance.** No changes.

**Subd. 2. Date of eligibility.** No changes.

**Subd. 2a. License required; staffing qualifications.** Modifies the requirements that must be met for a county to enter into an agreement with an establishment to provide GRH. Beginning July 1, 2016, prohibits agencies from having an agreement with a GRH or supplementary services provider unless all staff members who have direct contact with recipients meet certain requirements.

**Subd. 2b. Group residential housing agreements.** Requires agreements between agencies and GRH providers to be in writing on a form developed and approved by the commissioner. Requires providers to verify certain minimum requirements in the agreement.

**Subd. 2c. Background study requirements.** Effective July 1, 2016, requires GRH or supplementary service providers to initiate background studies on certain individuals. Requires GRH or supplementary services providers to maintain compliance with all requirements established for entities initiating background studies. Effective July 1, 2017, requires GRH or supplementary services providers to demonstrate that all individuals required to have a background study have received a certain notice.

## Section

**Subd. 2d. Conditions of payment; commissioner's right to suspend or terminate agreement.** Requires GRH or supplementary services to be provided to the satisfaction of the commissioner and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. Prohibits providers from receiving payment for services for housing found by the commissioner to be performed or provided in violation of federal, state, or local law, ordinance, rule, or regulation. Gives the commissioner the authority to suspend or terminate the agreement immediately when the commissioner determines the health or welfare of the housing or service recipients is endangered, or when the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that the provider has breached a material term of the agreement. Requires the commissioner to provide the provider with a written notice of a curable material breach of the agreement and allow ten days to cure the breach.

**Subd. 2e. Providers holding health or human services licenses.** Specifies the minimum staff qualifications and background study requirements that must be met when the GRH or supplementary service staff are operating under certain licenses.

**Subd. 2f. Required services.** Lists required services under the GRH program.

**Subd. 2g. Crisis shelters.** States that secure crisis shelters for battered women and their children designated by the Minnesota Department of Corrections are not group residences under the GRH statute. (This language was moved from another location within this section.)

**Subd. 3. Moratorium on development of GRH beds.** Makes technical and conforming changes.

**Subd. 4. Rental assistance.** Removes obsolete language.

Makes subdivision 1, paragraph (b), effective September 1, 2015.

- 14 Rate increases.** Amends § 256I.05, subd. 1c. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 15 Supplementary service rate for certain facilities.** Amends § 256I.05, subd. 1g. Modifies language related to providing a supplementary service rate for facilities providing services to homeless individuals.
- 16 Time of payment.** Amends § 256I.06, subd. 2. Removes language limiting county agencies to only providing advance GRH payments for individuals who do not expect to receive countable earned income during the month for which payment is made and requiring payment for individuals with countable earned income to be made only after a household report form is received. Makes this section effective April 1, 2016.
- 17 Reports.** Amends § 256I.06, subd. 6. Modifies reporting requirements for recipients with countable earned income by requiring recipients with countable earned income to complete a household report form at least once every six months rather than monthly. Makes this section effective April 1, 2016.
- 18 Determination of rates.** Amends § 256I.06, subd. 7. Makes technical and conforming changes.
- 19 Amount of GRH payment.** Amends § 256I.06, subd. 8. Requires prospective budgeting to be used to determine the amount of the GRH payment for individuals with earned income.

**Section**

Prohibits an increase in income from affecting an individual's eligibility or payment amount until the month following the reporting month. Requires a decrease in income to be effective the first day of the month after the month in which the decrease is reported. Makes this section effective April 1, 2016.