

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Kiel and others

Subject: Licensure of certain facilities that perform abortions

Analyst: Jamie Olson (651-296-5043)

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Overview

This bill creates licensing requirements for certain facilities that perform ten or more abortions per month. The bill requires those facilities to meet the licensure requirements of outpatient service centers (Minnesota Rules, chapter 4675). The bill also requires the commissioner of health to perform inspections and allows the commissioner to inspect without notice. The bill provides for license suspension, revocation, and renewal proceedings, including, but not limited to, a hearing, and appropriates money to the commissioner from the state government special revenue fund for licensing activities.

Section

1 Licensure of certain facilities that perform abortions. Adds § 145.417.

Subd. 1. License required for facilities that perform ten or more abortions per month. (a) Requires facilities where ten or more abortions are performed per month to be licensed by the commissioner of health and subject to licensure requirements under Minnesota Rules, chapter 4675 (outpatient service centers). Exempts hospitals and outpatient surgical centers from having to obtain a separate license.

(b) Creates a misdemeanor penalty and fine of not more than \$300 for establishment or operation of a facility under paragraph (a) without a license. Allows certain parties to seek an injunction against the continued operation of the facility.

(c) States that sanctions under different sections of law are allowed in addition to this subdivision.

Section

Subd. 2. Inspections; no notice required. Requires the commissioner to perform routine and comprehensive inspections and investigations of facilities described in subdivision 1. Allows the inspection to be without notice and requires the facility to be open at all reasonable times for inspection.

Subd. 3. Licensure fee. Requires facilities to pay an annual license fee of \$3,712 to be collected by the commissioner of health according to section 144.122 (general licensing fees and deposits statute).

Subd. 4. Suspension, revocation, and refusal to renew. Allows the commissioner to refuse to grant or renew licenses, and allows suspension and revocation of licenses for the following grounds:

- (1) violating Minnesota Rules, chapter 4675 (outpatient service centers);
- (2) permitting, aiding, or abetting an illegal act in the facility;
- (3) conduct or practices detrimental to the welfare of the patient;
- (4) obtaining or attempting to obtain a license by fraud or misrepresentation; or
- (5) a pattern of conduct involving one or more physicians in the facility who have a financial or economic interest in the facility and have not provided notice and disclosure of that interest.

Subd. 5. Hearing. Requires a hearing be provided to a facility prior to any suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a license. Puts the burden of proof of a violation on the commissioner and allows a new license application to be filed if the conditions upon the revocation, suspension, or refusal are corrected. Granting of the new license is conditional upon inspection for compliance with this section and Minnesota Rules, chapter 4657.

Subd. 6. Severability. Allows for severability of any one of more provisions of this subdivision if any part is found to be unconstitutional.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates \$63,000 to the commissioner of health from the state government special revenue fund in fiscal year 2016 for licensing activities under the above section.