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Overview

This bill creates housing support services under Medical Assistance (MA), requires the commissioner of human services to seek necessary federal waiver authority to implement housing support services, and modifies the Minnesota supplemental aid (MSA) program.

MSA is a state program that provides supplemental cash assistance to aged, blind, and disabled persons who are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, or who would qualify for SSI except for excess income.

Section

1 Housing support services. Creates § 256B.051.

Subd. 1. Purpose. Establishes housing support services to provide those services to an individual with a disability that limits the individual's ability to obtain or maintain stable housing. States the services support an individual's transition to housing in the community and increase long-term stability in housing.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines the terms "at-risk of homelessness," "commissioner," "homeless," "individual with a disability," "institution," and "segregated setting."

Subd. 3. Eligibility. Establishes the individual eligibility criteria for housing support services.

Section

Subd. 4. Assessment requirements. Lists the methods that may be used when conducting an individual's assessment of functional need. Requires individuals to be reassessed within one year of initial assessment, and annually thereafter.

Subd. 5. Housing support services. Lists the services provided under housing support services, including housing transition services and housing and tenancy sustaining services. Allows a housing support service to include person-centered planning for people who are not eligible to receive person-centered planning through any other service, if the planning is provided by a consultation service provider under contract with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and enrolled as a Minnesota health care program.

Subd. 6. Provider qualification and duties. Lists qualifications and duties a provider must meet in order to be eligible for reimbursement under the housing support services program.

Subd. 7. Housing support supplemental service rates. Reduces supplemental service rates for individuals in certain settings by one-half over a two-year period. Applies this reduction only to supplemental service rates for individuals eligible for housing support services.

Makes subdivisions 1 to 6 contingent upon federal approval and not effective until nine months after federal approval is obtained. Makes subdivision 7 contingent upon federal approval of subdivisions 1 to 6 and not effective until ten months after federal approval is obtained. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.

- 2 **Special needs.** Amends § 256D.44, subd. 5. Modifies the MSA shelter needy provision by increasing the benefit amount and expanding eligibility to include people moving out of group residential housing settings. Removes obsolete language.
- 3 **Federal waiver.** Requires the commissioner of human services to seek necessary federal waiver authority to implement the housing support services program. Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.