

File Number: H.F. 921
Version: As introduced

Date: February 10, 2017

Authors: Kiel and others

Subject: Intermediate care facilities and home and community-based services

Analyst: Danyell A. Punelli

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Overview

This bill modifies treatment of vacant beds in intermediate care facilities for the purposes of payments for therapeutic leave days and appropriates money to the commissioner of human services to conduct a study on consolidating the four Medical Assistance (MA) disability waivers into one program.

Currently, Minnesota administers four MA home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers for persons with disabilities that serve different populations and offer different service menus.

HCBS waivers offer service options that allow people to live in the community instead of going into or staying in an institutional setting. HCBS covers two types of services: (1) services necessary to avoid institutionalization that are not offered in Minnesota's MA state plan; and (2) services that are extensions of Minnesota's MA state plan services. Minnesota has four HCBS disability waivers:

- Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI): Provides services for individuals with disabilities who need the level of care provided in a nursing home;
- Brain Injury (BI): Provides services for individuals with brain injury who need the level of care provided in a nursing home or neurobehavioral hospital;
- Developmental Disabilities or Related Conditions (DD): Provides services for individuals with developmental disabilities or related conditions who need the same level of care as provided in an ICF/DD; and

- **Community Alternative Care (CAC):** Provides services for individuals with chronic illness who need the level of care provided in a hospital.

Section

- 1 Therapeutic leave days.** Amends § 256B.5012, by adding subd. 3a. Counts a vacant bed in an intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities as a reserved bed when determining occupancy rates and eligibility for payment of a therapeutic leave day.
- 2 Appropriation; home and community-based services reform waiver consolidation.** Appropriates \$72,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$105,000 in fiscal year 2019 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to conduct a study on consolidating the four HCBS waivers for persons with disabilities into one program. Makes the unencumbered balance in the first year available in the second year. Requires the commissioner to submit recommendations for the consolidation of the four HCBS waivers into one program to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and human services by January 15, 2019.