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Overview

This bill modifies home health services by requiring a face-to-face encounter with a qualifying provider and allowing services to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the service recipient.

Home care provides medical and health-related services and assistance with day-to-day activities to people in their home. It can be used to provide short-term care for people moving from a hospital or nursing home back to their home, or it can also be used to provide continuing care to people with ongoing needs. Home care services may also be provided outside the person's home when normal life activities take them away from home.

Section

- 1** **Home health services.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 6a. Allows medical assistance (MA) to cover home health services provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient.
- 2** **Definitions.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 2. Modifies the definition of “home health agency services.”
- 3** **Home health aide visits.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 3. Allows home health aide visits to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient.
- 4** **Skilled nurse visit services.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 4. Allows skilled nurse visits to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient.

Section

- 5** **Home care therapies.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 5. Allows home care therapies to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient. Home care therapies include physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, and speech and language pathology therapy services.
- 6** **Noncovered home health agency services.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 6. Modifies the list of noncovered home health agency services by removing from the list home care therapies provided at a day program and adding to the list home health agency services without documentation of a face-to-face encounter.
- 7** **Face-to-face encounter.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 7. Requires a face-to-face encounter to be completed for all home health services, except when providing a one-time perinatal visit by skilled nursing. Allows the face-to-face encounter to occur through telemedicine. Specifies when the encounter must occur and who may conduct the encounter. Lists duties of the physician responsible for ordering the services. For home health services requiring authorization, specifies that home health agencies must retain documentation of the face-to-face encounter and submit the qualifying documentation to the commissioner upon request.