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Overview

This bill modifies the MFIP transitional standard by increasing the cash portion of the standard beginning January 1, 2018, requiring the cash portion to be adjusted for inflation each year beginning in 2019, and applying funds appropriated for use in the consolidated fund to the annual increase in the cash portion of the MFIP transitional standard.

The MFIP is a jointly funded, federal-state program designed to provide income assistance for eligible low-income families. MFIP benefits are based on family size, with the MFIP grant composed of a cash portion and a food portion. The transitional standard is the maximum cash portion and food portion allowable for the specified family size.

The MFIP consolidated fund allows for short-term nonrecurring shelter and utility needs to be expended for eligible families. Eligibility requirements include presence of a minor child in the household and income below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Counties must give priority to families currently receiving MFIP assistance, DWP services, or Family Stabilization Services.

Section

- 1 MFIP transitional standard.** Amends § 256J.24, subd. 5. Increases the cash portion of the MFIP transitional standard beginning January 1, 2018, and requires the cash portion to be adjusted for inflation each year beginning in 2019. Prohibits cash assistance from being

Section

reduced under this provision and makes the new cash portion amount determined under this provision effective on the next January 1.

- 2** **Additional family support.** Amends § 256J.626, subd. 5. Modifies the use of certain funds appropriated for the purpose of the MFIP consolidated fund. Removes language allowing the commissioner to reward high performing counties and tribes and to test innovative approaches to improving outcomes for MFIP participants. Applies the funds to the annual increase in the cash portion of the MFIP transitional standard. Requires the commissioner to publish the new cash portion of the transitional standard.