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Subject: Modifies Child Care Assistance Program Provisions for Homeless Families and Provider Rates

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Overview

This bill makes various changes to the child care assistance programs related to providing assistance to homeless families and updating the maximum child care assistance program provider rates in order to be in compliance with the 2014 federal reauthorization of the child care and development fund. The bill provides a contingent effective date for these changes.

Section

- 1 Homeless.** Amends § 119B.011, by adding subd. 13b. Defines “homeless” under the child care assistance program statutes.
- 2 Transition year families.** Amends § 119B.011, subd. 20. Modifies the definition of “transition year families” by modifying the eligibility of families who have received Diversionary Work Program (DWP) assistance for transition year assistance.
- 3 Applications.** Amends § 119B.025, subd. 1. Specifies the process counties must follow when handling applications of families who meet the definition of homeless.
- 4 Portability pool.** Amends § 119B.03, subd. 9. Modifies the portability pool by requiring families who are receiving basic sliding fee child care assistance and move from one county to another to notify the family’s previous county of residence of the move (under current law, families must notify the new county of residence within 60 days of moving and submit information to the new county of residence to verify eligibility for the basic sliding fee program). Removes the six-month time limit on receipt of portability pool assistance.

Section

- 5** **Assistance for persons who are experiencing homelessness.** Amends § 119B.095, by adding subd. 3. Makes homeless applicants for child care assistance eligible for 60 hours of child care assistance per service period for three months from the date the county receives the application. Allows additional hours to be authorized as needed based on the applicant's participation in employment, education, or MFIP or DWP employment plan. Requires the parent to verify that the parent meets eligibility and activity requirements for child care assistance to continue receiving assistance after the initial three months.
- 6** **Subsidy restrictions.** Amends § 119B.13, subd. 1. Modifies the child care assistance program maximum rates to be based on the most recent child care provider survey and to be automatically updated to the most recent survey in February of every odd numbered year.
- 7** **Effective date.** Makes sections 1 to 6 effective contingent upon: (1) receipt of federal child care and development funds in an amount sufficient to cover the cost associated with the amendments to those sections; and (2) satisfactory completion of the Legislative Advisory Commission review of federal funds. Requires the commissioner of human services to notify the revisor of statutes when sections 1 to 6 are effective.