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Overview

This bill comprises the data-related provisions of two bills not previously heard by the Civil Law Committee.

Article 1: Free Electronic Tax Filing System

Section

1 [270C.303] Free electronic filing of individual income tax returns. Provides for phased-in implementation of free electronic filing (e-filing) of individual income tax returns that meet income and household size requirements through the Department of Revenue's website for both individual taxpayers and preparers. The system would populate returns for taxpayers with wage and withholding data available to the commissioner from employer-filed W-2 statements.

For tax year 2018 returns, the program would be available to all filers statewide with income only from wages, fewer than five dependents, and Federal Adjusted Gross Income (FAGI) less than \$100,000 (\$200,000 for married joint filers). For tax year 2019 returns, the program would be extended to filers with income only from wages, Social Security benefits, interest, dividends, individual retirement account distributions and pensions, fewer than five dependents, and FAGI less than \$100,000 (\$200,000 for married joint filers).

Requires an annual report to the legislature, beginning in 2019, on usage of the free e-filing system and ways in which the system could be expanded, including draft legislation if necessary for system expansion

Section

- 2** **Free electronic filing of individual income tax returns; pilot program.** Requires the commissioner of revenue to conduct a pilot program to test the e-filing system in tax year 2017. The pilot program must operate at no less than three taxpayer assistance sites, one of which must be in greater Minnesota.

The pilot program would be available to all filers with income only from wages, fewer than five dependents, and FAGI less than \$100,000 (\$200,000 for married joint filers).

Article 2: Director of Early Education and Development

- 1** **Educational data coded elsewhere.** Amends the section of chapter 13 concerning educational data coded elsewhere to note where the director is given access to private educational data.
- 2** **Human services data coded elsewhere.** Amends the section of chapter 13 concerning human services data coded elsewhere to note where the director is given access to private data maintained by entities within the welfare system.
- 3** **Director of early education and development.** Establishes a director of early education and development within the Department of Administration.

Subd. 1. Appointment. Requires the governor to appoint the director of early education and development, subject to the advice and consent of the senate. Requires the commissioner of administration to provide administrative services to the director.

Subd. 2. Qualifications. Establishes the qualifications of the director, who serves in the unclassified service for a term of four years and may be removed for cause.

Subd. 3. Compensation. Requires the compensation of the director to be established in accordance with chapter 15A.

Subd. 4. Duties; powers. Establishes the duties of the director, including developing early education program policies, managing data collection to evaluate early child care and education across units of government, and developing data-sharing agreements with other state departments.

Subd. 5. Coordination with other agencies. Requires the commissioner of education and the commissioner of human services to provide the director access to private data specified in subdivision 6. Requires the director to coordinate with the commissioners to develop a data-sharing consent form for parents of children participating in early education and development programs.

Subd. 6. Data practices. Permits the director to access private educational and welfare data on individuals related to their participation in certain enumerated early education and development programs. The director may only access private data if consent has been provided.