House Research

- Bill Summary :

File Number: H.F. 1383 **Date:** March 13, 2017

Version: First engrossment

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Subject: Congenital brain injury; funding for fetal alcohol and drug-related disorders

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Overview

This bill expands eligibility for services in the state traumatic brain injury program to persons with brain injuries caused by fetal alcohol exposure, and directs the commissioner of human services to try to amend the brain injury waiver to include these persons. The bill also appropriates money for a grant to the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS), to fund regional partnerships focused on reducing fetal alcohol syndrome disorders and prenatal drug-related effects.

Section

- **Eligibility.** Amends section 256B.093, subd. 2. Expands eligibility for brain injury case management and consultation to persons with brain injury from fetal alcohol exposure.
- **Direction to the commissioner.** Directs the commissioner of human services to seek to amend the brain injury waiver to include persons diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.
- **Appropriation.** Paragraph (a) appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 for a grant to MOFAS. Requires that MOFAS make grants to eligible regional collaboratives that fulfill the requirements of paragraph (c).

Paragraph (b) defines "eligible regional collaboratives" as partnerships between local governments and community-based organizations, including family home visiting programs.

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Section

Paragraph (c) requires eligible regional collaboratives to use grant funds to reduce fetal alcohol syndrome disorders and prenatal drug-related effects in children by identifying pregnant women suspected of substance use or abuse and providing intensive services.

Paragraph (d) requires MOFAS to make grants to collaboratives in rural and urban areas.

Paragraph (e) requires grantees to report annually to the commissioner on services and programs funded by the appropriation, including measurable outcomes such as the number of pregnant women served and the number of babies born free of toxins.