

File Number: H.F. 1412
Version: As introduced

Date: February 22, 2017

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Subject: Support program for adoptive, foster, and kinship families

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Overview

This bill, if passed, would require the commissioner of human services to establish a program to support adoptive, foster, and kinship (permanent physical and legal custody) families and children, with the goal of reducing the need for changes in child placement. The bill establishes guidelines for the services the program would provide, and allocates federal funding and appropriates money.

Section

1 Support for adoptive, foster, and kinship families. Proposes coding for § 256N.261.

Subd. 1. Program established. Instructs the commissioner to design and implement a program to reduce the need for changes in child and youth foster, adoptive, or permanent physical and legal custody kinship placements, improving the stability of these families. Requires the commissioner, to the extent funds are available, to ensure that placements are trauma-informed and child and family-centered, and to provide services as follows:

- (1) providing information, referrals, parent-to-parent support, peer support for youth, family activities, respite care, crisis services, educational support, and mental health services to children, youth, and families in placement arrangements;
- (2) training for adoptive, foster, and kinship families, and the professionals who serve them, on the effects of trauma, common disabilities of children in out-of-home placement, and other challenges; and
- (3) periodic evaluation of these services.

Section

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines “child and family-centered” and “trauma-informed.”

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Appropriation.

- (a) Allocates federal reimbursement to the state through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act expanded Title IV-E adoption assistance eligibility.
- (b) Allocates federal funds available to the commissioner during fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 for federal adoption and guardianship assistance grants for postadoption services.
- (c) Allocates federal funds available to the commissioner during fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 through Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, Promoting Safe and Stable Families.
- (d) Appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner to implement the requirements of the new program.