

File Number: H.F. 2389
Version: As introduced

Date: March 12, 2018

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Subject: Study on the Use of Acupuncture for Pain Relief

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of human services to contract with a vendor to study the effectiveness of acupuncture for pain relief and the potential for acupuncture treatments to reduce opioid prescriptions. Requires the commissioner to report to the legislature by January 15, 2020.

Section

- 1 Study on use of acupuncture for pain relief.** (a) Requires the commissioner of human services to contract with a vendor to study the use of acupuncture for pain relief and the potential for acupuncture treatments to reduce opioid prescriptions.
- (b) Requires the study to collect data from a least 200 cases in which individuals had more than six but not more than 30 acupuncture treatments for pain relief in a six-month period. Requires data collection from at least 10 treatment and 10 referral sites, both rural and urban. Allows the commissioner to focus the study on specified counties. Requires the commissioner to work with acupuncture providers to obtain sufficient data, and to protect client privacy.
- (c) Requires the vendor to establish a data capture system for use in future studies.
- (d) Requires the study to be completed by September 15, 2019. Requires the commissioner to submit a report on the study by January 15, 2020, to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services policy. Requires the report to address the effectiveness of acupuncture for pain relief and the potential effect on opioid prescriptions, and to collect data using PROMIS-10 or an equivalent assessment tool that gathers data from the referral practitioner, the treatment practitioner, and the individual.

Section

Provides that this section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 2** **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$375,000 in FY 2018 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the acupuncture study in section 1. Provides that the appropriation is one-time and available until expended.