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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.

Section

- 1 Homeless.** Amends § 119B.011, by adding subd. 13b. Defines “homeless” under the child care assistance program statutes. Makes this section effective August 12, 2019.
- 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. Makes this section effective October 8, 2018.
- 3 Applications.** Amends § 119B.025, subd. 1. Specifies the process counties must follow when handling applications of families who meet the definition of homeless. Makes this section effective August 12, 2019.
- 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

Section

program). Removes the six month time limit on receipt of portability pool assistance. Makes this section effective October 8, 2018.

- 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. Makes this section effective August 12, 2019.
- 6 Subsidy restrictions.** Amends § 119B.13, subd. 1. Modifies the child care assistance program maximum rates by basing the rates on the most recent child care provider survey and automatically updating rates to the most recent survey in February of every odd numbered year. Makes this section effective February 22, 2019.