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Overview

This bill modifies relative foster care disqualifications, establishes a pilot project to align child placement background studies, and establishes the child protection safety and risk-based framework response system pilot project.

Section

1 Background studies for relative foster care licensing. Proposes coding for § 245A.71.

Subd. 1. Background studies for relative foster care licensing. Modifies the disqualifications for relative foster care licensure applicants by requiring the commissioner to use the disqualification provisions in section 256N.22, subdivision 4 (for relative custodians receiving Northstar kinship assistance) rather than section 245C.15. Defines “relative;” specifies that the subdivision is effective the day after subdivision 2 expires.

Subd. 2. Pilot project. (a) Requires the commissioner and a cohort of counties to establish a pilot project to align background study requirements across child foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship care assistance. Requires that, as part of the pilot project, the provisions of subdivision 1 apply.

(b) Requires the commissioner to choose a cohort of counties to participate in the pilot, including Hennepin County.

(c) Requires the use of federal measures for identifying child safety and permanency outcomes for children placed in relative foster homes under the background study provisions of this section.

Section

(d) Requires a report to the legislature by June 1, 2020, about the success of the pilot project; specifies that if the project is successful, this subdivision expires, and if the project was not successful, the report must include recommendations for the future of the pilot project.

(e) Describes criteria for determining the success of the pilot project.

Makes subdivision 2 effective the day following final enactment.

2

Child protection safety and risk-based framework response system; pilot project.

Amends § 626.556 by adding subd. 17. (a) Requires the commissioner and a cohort of counties to establish the child protection safety and risk-based framework response system pilot project.

(b) Specifies that the new framework response system must improve responses to a child's reported safety needs and must include consideration of listed factors.

(c) Requires the commissioner to choose a cohort of counties to participate in the pilot, including Hennepin County; specifies required makeup of the cohort.

(d) Allows the cohort counties to use the framework in lieu of the response requirements for county child protection under section 626.556, subdivision 10, when the commissioner and the counties agree that the framework has been adequately researched and developed.

(e) Requires the commissioner to submit a report to the legislature by June 1, 2019, on the progress of the pilot project, and by June 1, 2020, on the implementation of the framework response system.