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Overview

This bill directs the commissioner of health to establish an advisory council on PANDAS (pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections) and PANS (pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome).

- PANDAS is described as the abrupt onset, or a remitting and relapsing course, of anxiety, emotional responses that are irregular or out of proportion to a situation, obsessions or compulsions, or tics. PANDAS is triggered following a streptococcal infection.
- PANS is described as the abrupt onset of obsessions or compulsions or restricted food intake and two or more of the following: anxiety, irregular emotional responses, irritability or aggression, behavioral regression, deterioration of school performance, sensory or motor abnormalities, and sleep issues. This is a broader category of disorders. These symptoms may not be connected to a streptococcal infection and are not explained by another known neurologic or medical disorder.

Section

- 1** **Advisory council on PANDAS and PANS.** Adds § 144.131. Establishes an advisory council on PANDAS and PANS at the Department of Health.

Section

Subd. 1. Advisory council established. Directs the commissioner of health to establish the advisory council to advise the commissioner on research, diagnosis, treatment, and education regarding PANDAS and PANS.

Subd. 2. Membership. Lists council membership for the 15-member council.

Subd. 3. Terms. Provides that the term for council members is three years, requires council members to serve until their successors are appointed, and allows council members to be reappointed.

Subd. 4. Administration. Directs the commissioner of health to provide meeting space and administrative services for the advisory council.

Subd. 5. Compensation and expenses. Prohibits compensation but permits reimbursement for expenses for public members of the advisory council.

Subd. 6. Chair; meetings. Provides for election of an advisory council chair and directs the chair to schedule advisory council meetings. Requires the advisory council to meet at least four times a year, or at the request of a majority of its members.

Subd. Duties. Lists duties for the advisory council.

- 2** **Advisory council on PANDAS and PANS; initial appointments and first meeting.** Requires initial appointments to be made by October 1, 2018, and requires the commissioner of health to convene the first meeting of the advisory council by November 1, 2018. Establishes staggered terms for the first set of appointees to the advisory council.