

Subject Northstar assistance payment rates

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Date March 12, 2019

Overview

Northstar Care for Children, Chapter 256N, provides foster care benefits and kinship and adoption assistance payments. Foster care benefits are determined based on age (basic monthly rate) and supplemental need, assessed under a standardized system. Once a child enters permanency through adoption or a kinship placement, the child and family continue to receive assistance payments. Children entering permanency status under the age of six receive assistance under the pre-school entry alternate monthly basic rate, which is half of the amount received while in foster care. This bill increases the pre-school entry rate to the full amount of assistance received while in foster care and makes corresponding changes in sections related to state funding.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Alternate rates for preschool entry and certain transitioned children.</p> <p>Amends § 256N.26, subd. 5.</p> <p>Increases Northstar kinship and adoption assistance payments for children entering adoption or kinship placement under the age of six from the alternate rate (50 percent of the basic and supplemental monthly rate) to the full amount. Allows for the alternate rate for a child transitioned into Northstar kinship and adoption assistance by declaration of the commissioner.</p> <p>Makes this section effective February 21, 2020.</p>
2	<p>State share.</p> <p>Amends § 256N.27, subd. 2.</p> <p>Specifies that the state share of assistance payments must include the cost of eliminating the preschool entry alternate rate.</p> <p>Makes this section effective February 21, 2020.</p>

Section	Description
3	<p data-bbox="354 275 574 302">Nonfederal share.</p> <p data-bbox="354 317 688 344">Amends § 256N.27, subd. 4.</p> <p data-bbox="354 386 1414 520">Requires the commissioner to take into account the cost of eliminating the preschool entry alternate rate when adjusting the initial percentage of state and local shares for Northstar assistance. Specifies that the costs of eliminating the alternate preschool entry rate are borne by the state.</p> <p data-bbox="354 562 915 590">Makes this section effective February 21, 2020.</p>



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