

Subject Relative foster care provisions

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Overview

This bill requires local social services agencies to offer referrals to outside agencies for foster care relative caregivers to receive licensing training and support, and for case management and support during a placement. The bill also establishes a relative caregiver support call line, requires social services agencies to have service agreements with a private, community-based organization to assist with conducting required relative searches, directs the commissioner to continue to review opportunities for additional relative search services and kinship navigator models, and appropriates money for the activities required in the bill.

Summary

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| 1 | <p>Child foster care relative placement licensing support and training.</p> <p>Proposes coding for § 245A.036. Requires a local social services agency or other child-placing agency to offer to refer a relative foster caregiver or potential relative caregiver to a private, community-based organization, to provide training, support, and guidance through the foster care licensing process. Lists the services the private, community-based organization must provide upon a referral. Lists the training that must be offered to a relative caregiver.</p> <p>Specifies that the private, community-based organization must be licensed by the commissioner, have a contract with the commissioner to provide services, and must have experience delivering the listed services.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Relative placement case management and support.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.212 by adding subd. 2a. Requires a local social services agency or other child-placing agency to offer to refer a relative foster caregiver to a private, community-based organization to provide case management and support during the placement. Lists the services and supports that the local social services agency or private, community-based organization case management plan must include. Allows</p> |

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the agency to provide referrals for appropriate services, as needed. Allows relative caregivers to contact the relative placement support call line established in this bill.

Specifies that each private, community-based organization receiving referrals and providing case management services must be licensed by the commissioner, have a contract with the commissioner to provide services, and must have experience delivering the listed services.

3 Relative search.

Amends § 260C.221. Requires the responsible social services agency to have a service agreement with a private, community-based organization to provide additional expertise and capacity for conducting the required relative search. Specifies that the private, community-based organization must have a contract with the commissioner, and must have demonstrated technological capacity and engagement expertise. Requires engagement and coordination to support effective transitions after relative placement.

4 Relative caregiver support call line.

Proposes coding for § 260C.222. Requires the commissioner to establish a relative caregiver support call line, staffed to take calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to answer questions regarding the child foster care licensing process and provide information about other resources, services, and referrals for children and families. Requires the commissioner to contract with an experienced, professional entity through a request for proposals process to develop and operate the call line.

5 Direction to commissioner; family first prevention kinship services.

Directs the commissioner of human services to continue to review opportunities for additional relative search services and kinship navigator models, in anticipation of reimbursement for eligible services under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

6 Appropriations; relative caregiver support; relative search and outreach.

Appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner of human services in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for:

(a) contracts with private, community-based organizations to provide relative caregiver foster care training and licensing support, and relative placement case management and support;

(b) a contract with an entity to develop and operate the relative placement support call line; and

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	(c) contracts with private, community-based organizations to assist with relative searches.
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