

Subject Positive pregnancies grant program

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Overview

In current law, Minnesota Statutes, section 145.4235, establishes a positive abortion alternatives grant program, in which the commissioner of health provides grants to organizations to support pregnant women in carrying their pregnancies to term. This bill modifies the grant program so that the commissioner provides grants to organizations to support pregnant people with their pregnancies and to support new parents in caring for their babies. It makes changes to the services on which grant recipients must provide information and assistance; eligibility requirements for grants; and privacy protections for persons receiving services.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Positive pregnancies.
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Amends § 145.4235. Modifies the grant program in this section from an alternatives to abortion program that provides grants to organizations that support, encourage, and assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term and caring for their babies, to a program that supports and assists people with their pregnancies and new parents with caring for their babies.

Subd. 1. Definition. Strikes definitions of abortion, nondirective counseling, and unborn child for this section. Defines medically accurate for this section as information that is verified or supported by peer-reviewed medical research, is recognized as medically sound and objective by certain organizations or government agencies, or is recommended in the health care practice guidelines of a nationally recognized health care accreditation organization.

Subd. 2. Eligibility for grants. Modifies this grant program from a program that provides grants to alternatives to abortion programs that support pregnant women in carrying pregnancies to term and caring for their babies, to a program

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that provides grants to programs that support pregnant people with their pregnancies and with caring for their babies.

In para. (a), adds the following to the necessary services on which a grant recipient must provide information and assistance: assistance with enrolling in public health care programs, domestic violence services, and mental health counseling. Removes a requirement that programs encourage and assist women in carrying pregnancies to term.

In para. (b), specifies that necessary services provided directly by a grant recipient must be provided by appropriately trained or licensed personnel, and removes a requirement that the services be provided to assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term.

In para. (c), modifies grant eligibility requirements, by removing requirements that the grant recipient provide pregnant women with information on fetal and infant development and have as their purpose assisting women in carrying their pregnancies to term, and removing a prohibition on grant money being used to encourage a woman to have an abortion not necessary to prevent her death or to provide or refer for an abortion. Instead, prohibits grant recipients from requiring a person to receive certain services as a condition of receiving information or resources; requires signs and print materials to specify that resources are available free of charge and without preconditions; requires information provided about pregnancy and related conditions and procedures to be medically accurate; requires any ultrasounds and ultrasound referrals provided to meet certain requirements; and prohibits money from being used to interfere with a person's ability to decide whether to continue a pregnancy.

Strikes paras. (d) to (g). These paragraphs make provisions in para. (c) inseverable; prohibit organizations that provide, promote, or refer for abortions from receiving a grant; establish requirements for organizations affiliated with an organization that provides abortions; and require the commissioner to approve certain information provided by grant recipients.

Subd. 3. Privacy protection. Prohibits a grant recipient from releasing any records about a person receiving services without a signed, dated consent from that person or their authorized representative, authorization in law, or a representation from a health care provider that the provider has consent. Provides that requirements in the Minnesota Health Records Act apply to consent obtained and the release of records under this clause. Requires a document seeking consent to release records to be separate from other materials and to list the entities with which the information will be shared.

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Subd. 4. Duties of commissioner. Strikes obsolete language and removes a requirement for the commissioner, when awarding grants, to consider a program's ability to help pregnant women in carrying their pregnancies to term.

Subd. 5. Severability. Strikes a subdivision making provisions in this section severable if found unconstitutional.

Subd. 6. Minnesota Supreme Court jurisdiction. Strikes a subdivision stating that the Minnesota Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over an action challenging the constitutionality of this section.



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