

**Subject** Establishing a Council on Direct Support Professionals

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## Overview

This bill establishes a Council on Direct Support Professionals and appropriates money for the council.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>Council on Direct Support Professionals</b>
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Proposes § 256.4931.

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes the Council on Direct Support Professionals to develop a statewide strategic plan to address the shortage of direct support professionals and to promote improvement in the availability of direct support services in all areas of the state.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** Defines the following terms:

- Direct support professional
- Direct support services
- Direct support staff
- Licensed health professional

**Subd. 3. Members.** Specifies the council consists of 18 members. Lists the members.

**Subd. 4. Terms.** Specifies council member terms, specifies member compensation and removal is governed by the statute governing advisory councils and committees, specifies the council performs functions that are not purely advisory, and requires vacancies to be filled by the authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Subd. 5. Chairperson; executive committee.** Requires the council to elect a chairperson and other officers as the council deems necessary. Requires an executive committee elected by the council members to govern the council.

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	<p>Allows the executive committee to appoint additional members to subcommittees and work groups as necessary to fulfill the duties of the council.</p> <p><b>Subd. 6. Executive director; staff.</b> Requires the council to appoint an executive director by a majority vote of all council members. Requires the executive director to be in the unclassified service of the state and allows the council to remove the executive director at any time by majority vote of the council. Lists the duties of the executive director. Allows the council to delegate to the executive director any powers and duties that do not require council approval. Specifies how the salary of the executive director and staff is established.</p> <p><b>Subd. 7. Duties and powers.</b> Lists the duties and powers of the council.</p> <p><b>Subd. 8. Meetings.</b> Requires the council to meet at least quarterly and allows council meetings to be conducted by telephone or other electronic means if certain conditions are met.</p> <p><b>Subd. 9. Annual report.</b> Beginning January 1, 2026, and each January 1 thereafter, requires the council to report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services, health, employment and economic development, labor and industry, and higher education on the council's activities, recommendations, proposed changes to statute or rules, and other issues on which the council may choose to report.</p>
2	<p><b>Council on Direct Support Professionals; initial appointments and first meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Initial appointments.</b> Requires appointing authorities to make initial appointments no later than October 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. First meeting.</b> Requires the commissioner of human services, or the commissioner's designee, to convene the first meeting of the council no later than October 1, 2025, and to preside over the first meeting until the council elects a chairperson.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Initial administrative support.</b> Requires the commissioner of human services to provide administrative support to the council until the council has appointed an executive director, or until June 30, 2026, whichever occurs first. Requires the council to reimburse the commissioner for reasonable expenses incurred to provide the administrative support.</p>
3	<p><b>Appropriation; Council on Direct Support Professionals.</b></p> <p>Appropriates unspecified amounts in each fiscal year of the 2026-2027 biennium from the general fund to the Council on Direct Support Professionals. From the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2026, requires the council to reimburse the commissioner of human services for the reasonable costs incurred by the</p>

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	commissioner to provide the council with administrative support prior to appointment by the council of an executive director.
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