

Subject Department of Health policy bill

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Overview

This bill is a Department of Health policy bill. It modifies the frequency of reports on palliative care availability and 988 Lifeline usage, modifies the maximum terms for contracts related to issuing WIC benefits, modifies membership of the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee, clarifies requirements for audiologist licensure by reciprocity and the timing for submitting an application for license renewal for audiologists and speech-language pathologists, and repeals the advancing health equity through capacity building and resource allocation grant program.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Duties. Amends § 144.059, subd. 8. Changes the frequency of reports required from the Palliative Care Advisory Council to certain members of the legislature on the availability of palliative care, barriers to access, and recommendations for legislative action, from every year under current law to every other year.
2	Periodic evaluations; biennial reports. Amends § 145.56, subd. 5. Removes an obsolete effective date from a subdivision requiring the commissioner of health to report to certain members of the legislature on the commissioner's evaluation of implementation of the state's suicide prevention plan.
3	988 Lifeline. Amends § 145.561, subd. 2. Changes the frequency of reports from the commissioner of health on 988 Lifeline usage, from every year under current law to July 1 of every other year. Allows the biennial report on 988 Lifeline usage to be included as a section in another required report on implementation of the state's suicide prevention plan.

Section	Description
4	<p>Contracting and procurement.</p> <p>Adds subd. 9 to § 145.882. Exempts from the limits on contract terms in chapter 16C, the contract for issuance of WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) benefits through an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system and related services. (Under chapter 16C an initial contract term must not exceed two years and the total contract duration must not exceed five years unless the commissioner of administration approves a longer duration or another exception applies.) Instead, allows these contracts to have an initial term of up to five years and extension that do not exceed a ten-year total contract duration.</p>
5	<p>Management information systems; contracting and procurement.</p> <p>Adds subd. 10 to § 145.882. Exempts from the limits on contract terms in chapter 16C, the contract for management information systems used for issuance of WIC benefits and for the WIC EBT system used to process redemptions of WIC benefits. Instead, allows these contracts to have an initial term of up to five years and extensions that do not exceed a ten-year total contract duration.</p>
6	<p>State and local advisory committees.</p> <p>Amends § 145A.04, subd. 15. Allows each of Minnesota’s federally recognized Tribal Nations to appoint a member to serve on the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee and expands duties of the committee to include advising the commissioner of health on the development, maintenance, funding, and evaluation of Tribal public health services, in addition to local public health services as in current law. Allows Tribal Nations to elect to participate in the committee at any time.</p>
7	<p>Applicability.</p> <p>Amends § 148.517, subd. 1. Requires an applicant for licensure by reciprocity as an audiologist, in order to obtain a license, to pass a practical examination on topics related to hearing tests and dispensing hearing aids.</p>
8	<p>Current credentials required.</p> <p>Amends § 148.517, subd. 2. In a subdivision exempting applicants for licensure by reciprocity as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist from the general requirements for licensure for these professions, specifies applicants for licensure by reciprocity as an audiologist must pass a practical examination on topics related to hearing tests and dispensing hearing aids.</p>
9	<p>Renewal deadline.</p> <p>Amends § 148.5191, subd. 4. Removes language making an application for license renewal as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist timely if the application is postmarked at least 30 days before the license expires. With this change, an</p>

Section	Description
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	application for license renewal must be received by the Department of Health at least 30 days before the license expires in order to be timely.
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10	Repealer.
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	Repeals section 144.9821 (advancing health equity through capacity building and resource allocation; a program in which the commissioner of health awards grants to organizations serving diverse communities to help the organizations succeed in applying for grants and contracts with the department).
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