

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Sykora
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Analyst: Danyell Punelli, 651-296-5058

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Section

Article 1: Children and Family Support Programs

- 1 **Provider.** Makes changes to the definition of "provider."
- 2 **Recoupment of overpayments.** Defines recoupment as a process to recover excess payments through a reduction in assistance, irrespective of the responsibility for the original overpayment.
- 3 **Child care development fund plan development; review.** Requires the commissioner to present a draft copy of the plan to the legislative finance committees that oversee child care assistance funding no less than 30 days prior to the deadline for federal submission.
- 4 **Assistance.** Modifies the calculation of family income while the family is participating in the at-home infant child care assistance program.
- 5 **Provider payments.** Allows the state to make vendor payments to child care providers or parents for eligible child care expenses.
- 6 **County contributions required.** Authorizes the department of children, families, and learning (CFL) to accept county contributions for the required child care match, to pay for authorized child care services, or to pay for additional services authorized in law. Contributions are deposited in the special revenue fund and appropriated to the commissioner.
- 7 **Duties of commissioner.** Upon approval by the commissioner, family child care providers and early childhood and school-age care programs must be reimbursed for one-half of the direct cost of accreditation fees.
- 8 **Reserve account limit.** Limits the average revenue in a district's early childhood family education (ECFE) reserve account over the prior three years to 25 percent of the district's ECFE revenue for the prior year. Reduces ECFE revenue by any amount in excess of an average of 25 percent of the district's ECFE revenue for the prior three years.
- 9 **Waiver.** Allows districts anticipating a reserve account in excess of 25 percent of ECFE revenue due to extenuating circumstances to obtain prior written approval from CFL to exceed the limit.

- 10 **Amount of aid.** Modifies the school readiness aid formula.
- 11 **Reserve account.** Requires school readiness revenue, including aids, fees, grants, and all other revenues, to be maintained in a separate reserve account within the community service fund.
- 12 **Reserve account limit.** Limits the average revenue in a district's school readiness reserve account over the prior three years to 25 percent of the district's school readiness revenue for the prior year. Reduces school readiness revenue for the current year by any amount in excess of an average of 25 percent of the district's school readiness revenue for the prior three years.
- 13 **Waiver.** Allows districts anticipating a reserve account in excess of 25 percent of school readiness revenue due to extenuating circumstances to obtain prior written approval from CFL to exceed the limit.
- 14 **State interagency coordinating council.** Changes from June 1 to September 1 the date by which the state interagency coordinating council must make recommendations. Extends the expiration date of the council from June 30, 2001 to June 30, 2003.
- 15 **Interagency autism coordinating committee.** Requires the commissioner to establish an interagency committee to coordinate state efforts related to serving children with autism. Requires the committee to make recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2001. Makes the committee expire on June 30, 2003.
- 16 **Child care report.** Requires CFL to report to the legislative committees responsible for child care twice a year with information on the number of families receiving child care assistance and the cost of direct service. The report must include the number who receive assistance and number who would receive assistance at various increments of income eligibility and exit levels.
- 17 **Appropriations.** See spreadsheet.
- 18 **Special revenue; child support collection.** See spreadsheet.
- 19 **Federal TANF transfers.** See spreadsheet.
- 20 **Effective date.** Makes the child care development fund plan and the interagency autism coordinating committee effective the day following final enactment.

Article 2: Prevention

- 1 **Authority to disburse funds.** Allows the commissioner to disburse children's trust fund money to any public or private nonprofit agency to fund a child abuse prevention program. Allows state funds appropriated for child maltreatment prevention grants to be transferred to the children's trust fund special revenue account.
- 2 **Plan for disbursement of funds.** Requires the commissioner to develop a plan to disburse money from the children's trust fund. Requires the plan to ensure that all geographic areas of the state have an equal opportunity to establish prevention programs and receive trust fund money.
- 3 **Operational costs.** Appropriates \$120,000 each year from the children's trust fund to the special revenue fund for administration and indirect costs of the children's trust fund program.
- 4 **Responsibilities of commissioner.** Adds language requiring the commissioner to encourage the development of child abuse prevention programs, including programs that provide support for adolescent parents, fathering education programs, and other prevention activities designed to prevent teen pregnancy.
- 5 **Grants to service provider programs.**
- Subd. 1. Grants awarded.** Adds language requiring the commissioner to award grants to programs that provide neglect intervention in addition to child abuse services.
- Subd. 2. Applications.** Makes technical changes. Strikes language listing the information

required to be included in an application for a child abuse and neglect intervention services grant.

Subd. 3. Duties. Makes technical changes.

6 **Duties of the commissioner.** Strikes language referencing the abused children advisory council. Makes technical changes.

7 **Advisory council.**

Subd. 1. Generally. Establishes a council to advise the commissioner on the implementation and continued operations of the children's trust fund and the abused child program. Causes the council to expire on June 30, 2005.

Subd. 2. Council membership. Requires the council to consist of a total of 22 members. Requires the governor to appoint 18 of the members. Requires the commissioners of human services and health to each appoint one member. Requires the senate to appoint one member from the family and early childhood education finance committee and the house to appoint one member from the family and early childhood finance committee. Requires council members to have knowledge in the areas of child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention. Requires council members to be representative of:

- local government;
- criminal justice;
- parents;
- consumers of services;
- health and human services professionals;
- faith community;
- professional and volunteer providers of child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention services;
- racial and ethnic minority communities; and
- the demographic and geographic composition of the state.

Requires 10 council members to reside in the seven county metro area and eight to reside in nonmetro areas.

Subd. 3. Responsibilities. Requires the council to:

- advise the commissioner;
- coordinate and exchange information;
- develop and publish criteria and guidelines for receiving grants relating to child abuse and neglect prevention;
- provide guidance in the development of statewide education and public information activities that increase public awareness in the prevention and intervention of child abuse and neglect;
- guide, analyze, and disseminate results in the development of appropriate evaluation procedures for all programs receiving funds; and
- assist the commissioner in identifying service gaps or duplication in services.

8 **Youth after-school enrichment programs.** Allows districts operating community education programs to establish youth after-school enrichment programs.

9 **Youth after-school enrichment program goals.** Lists the goals of youth after-school enrichment programs.

10 **Community education; annual report.** Requires each district offering a community education

program to annually report to CFL information regarding the cost per participant and cost per contact hour for all programs.

- 11 **Total community education revenue.** Makes technical changes.
- 12 **Youth after-school enrichment revenue.** Creates a formula for youth after-school enrichment revenue.
- 13 **Total community education levy.** Increases the amount a district may levy for community education from .4795 percent times ANTC to a maximum of .7431 percent times ANTC.
- 14 **Retroactivity.** Authorizes retroactive contracts and grant awards by state agencies if the contract is encumbered or grant is awarded before September 1, 2001.
- 15 **Appropriations.** See spreadsheet for appropriations to CFL.
- 16 **Appropriations.** See spreadsheet for appropriations to the department of military affairs.
- 17 **Revisor instruction.** Requires the revisor to renumber the commissioner's responsibilities for the children's trust fund and make the necessary cross-reference changes.
- 18 **Repealer.** Repeals children's trust fund advisory council, abused child advisory council, male responsibility and fathering grants, and adolescent parenting grants.
- 19 **Effective date.** Makes youth after-school enrichment revenue and levy effective for revenue for fiscal year 2003.

Article 3: Self-Sufficiency and Lifelong Learning

- 1 **Unreimbursed expenses.** Limits unreimbursed expenses for adult basic education (ABE) to the current program year.
- 2 **Program approval.** Allows a state agency to receive state ABE aid by submitting an application describing the ABE program.
- 3 **Adult basic education supplemental service grants.** Makes supplemental service grants a set-aside of state total ABE aid.
- 4 **State total adult basic education aid.** Makes the supplement service set-aside equal to two percent of state total ABE aid.
- 5 **Program revenue.** Modifies the limited English proficiency portion of the ABE revenue formula.
- 6 **Program audits.** Delays the auditing of ABE programs by one year. With this change, half the ABE programs will be audited in 2003 and half in 2004.
- 7 **Adult basic education policy task force.** Requires the existing task force to make recommendations to the 2002 legislature on an ABE funding formula for nondistrict programs based on costs and revenues.
- 8 **Direction to commissioner.** Requires CFL to hire an ABE director to oversee the state ABE program who is different from the federal ABE director.
- 9 **Appropriations.** See spreadsheet.
- 10 **TANF appropriations.** See spreadsheet.
- 11 **Revisor instruction.** Requires the revisor to replace all references to the "Minnesota Foodshelf Association" with "Hunger Solutions."

Article 4: Libraries

- 1 **Establishment; purpose.** Strikes language allowing regional public libraries to apply for a telecommunications access grant.
- 2 **Advisory committee.** Causes the advisory committee that advises the staff of the Minnesota library for the blind and physically handicapped to expire on 6/30/03.

3 **Regional library telecommunications aid.**

Subd. 1. Eligibility. Establishes regional library telecommunications aid and allows regional public libraries to apply for aid. Requires aid to be used for data and video access and related costs to improve or maintain electronic access and connect the library system with the information infrastructure administered by the department of administration. Requires priority to be given to public libraries without access. Requires regional public libraries to be officially designated by the commissioner as a regional public library system to be eligible. Requires public library buildings that receive aid to be open a minimum of 20 hours per week. Prohibits aid under this section from being used to substitute for existing local funds that provide electronic access, or equipment for library staff or the public, or local funds dedicated to other library operations. Requires applications for aid to contain the following:

- the connections are adequate and employ an open network architecture;
- that the connection is established through the most cost-effective means;
- that the connection and system will be connected to the state information infrastructure through the department of administration;
- the vendor selected will provide service from the library to a state information infrastructure hub or through a more cost-effective connection point;
- the regional library system has filed an e-rate application; and
- other information, as determined by the commissioner.

Allows the library system to include costs associated with cooperative arrangements with post-secondary institutions, school districts, and other governmental agencies.

Subd. 2. Award of funds. Requires the commissioner to develop application and reporting forms and procedures for regional public library telecommunications aid. Requires aid to be based on actual costs of connections and funds available for this purpose. Requires the commissioner to make payments directly to the regional public library system.

Subd. 3. Expiration. Makes this section expire on July 1, 2003.

4 **Commissioner recommendation.** Requires the commissioner to recommend to the legislature a permanent method for funding telecommunications access as part of the basic support grants for public libraries.

5 **Appropriations.** See spreadsheet.

6 **Repealer.** Repeals regional library telecommunications grants. Repeals state library rules identified as obsolete in a 1999 CFL report.