

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes requirements for how family planning grant funds may be used and prohibits organizations that receive these funds from engaging in certain activities. It also specifies when affiliated organizations are independent from each other and requires independent audits as a condition of applying for these grant funds. Family planning grant funds is defined in subdivision 1.

Section

1 **Family planning grant funds not used to subsidize abortion services.** Adds section 145.417. Prohibits family planning grant funds from being used in certain ways, establishes requirements for organizations that receive these funds, specifies when affiliated organizations are independent, requires organizations to conduct independent audits to receive these funds, and specifies that organizations receiving Title X funds are not prohibited from providing services required by Title X.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the following terms for this section: abortion, family planning grant funds, family planning services, nondirective counseling, and public advocacy. Family planning grant funds means maternal and child health block grant funds, family planning special projects grant funds, grant funds to eliminate health disparities, and any other state grant funds that are or may be used to fund family planning services.

Subd. 2. Uses of family planning grant funds. Prohibits family planning grant funds from being:

- expended to directly or indirectly subsidize abortion services or administrative expenses;
- paid or granted to an organization or affiliate of an organization that provides abortion services, unless the affiliate is independent; or
- paid or granted to an organization that has a policy that abortion is part of a continuum of family planning or reproductive health services.

Subd. 3. Organizations receiving family planning grant funds. Allows organizations that receive family planning grant funds to provide nondirective family planning, but prohibits such organizations from directly referring patients for abortion services. Also prohibits these organizations from distributing or displaying marketing materials about abortion services and from engaging in public advocacy promoting abortion, and requires them to be separately incorporated from any affiliated organization that provides abortion services.

Subd. 4. Independent affiliates that provide abortion services. Prohibits an organization that receives family planning grant funds from being affiliated with an organization that provides abortion services unless the organizations are independent. Lists criteria that must be met for organizations to be independent. Requires an organization that receives family planning grant funds and that has an affiliate providing abortion services to maintain financial records demonstrating compliance with this section.

Subd. 5. Independent audit. When an organization applies for family planning grant funds, requires it to submit a copy of its most recent independent audit demonstrating compliance with this section. Requires the audit to have been conducted within the past two years.

Subd. 6. Organizations receiving title X funds. Specifies that this section does not require an organization receiving federal Title X funds to refrain from providing services that must be provided to receive Title X funds.

Subd. 7. Severability. Provides for severability if any provision of this section is found unconstitutional.