

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2641

DATE: March 16, 2004

Version: First engrossment

Authors: Harder and others

Subject: Minnesota Healthy Marriage Initiative; Marriage Administrative Provisions

Analyst: Deborah K. McKnight, Legislative Analyst (651-296-5056)

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

The bill creates and provides for funding of a Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood initiative and changes terminology in marriage license laws.

Section

1 Minnesota Health marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiative.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Requires the commissioner of human services to develop and implement this initiative, using federal grants, state appropriations, and in-kind services.

Subd. 2. Purpose. To test a strategy for promoting marriage and responsible fatherhood among unmarried urban parents who expect or recently had a child

Subd. 3. Implementation. Target population is parents of babies born in Minneapolis and St. Paul hospitals. The university and community-based programs may do implementation. The commissioner will enter contracts or manage grants, provide technical assistance, and develop and implement evaluation.

2 Definition. Amends the marriage statute to include the definition of "local registrar" that applies in the vital records law.

3 License. Provides that marriage licenses are to be obtained from the local registrar rather than the court administrator for the county.

4 Term of license. Changes district court administrator to local registrar.

Section

- 5** **Disposition of license fee.** Change marriage license fee (for those who do not take the premarital education discount) disposition as follows:
- the county will keep \$20 rather than \$15
 - the local registrar pays \$60 to the state rather than the current \$65. Of this amount, \$40 rather than the current \$50 would go to the general fund, and \$5 would go to a special revenue fund and be appropriated to the Healthy Marriage Initiative.
- 6** **Report.** Requires the local registrar to annually report to the Department of Health the number of marriage licenses issued and the fees paid.
- 7** **Certificate; witnesses.** Terminology change.
- 8** **Penalty for failure.** Terminology change.
- 9** Terminology change.
- 10** **Appropriation.** \$100,000 from the general fund to DHS for the healthy marriage initiative. Requires the first \$100,000 collected from marriage licenses for this purpose to be deposited in the general fund.