

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Medicare-Approved Special Needs Plans

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### Overview

This bill allows the commissioner to contract with Medicare-approved Special Needs Plans and strikes language related to a long-term care developmental disability pilot project.

Medicare beneficiaries who live in certain types of institutions, those who have chronic, severe, or disabling medical conditions, and those who have both Medicare and Medicaid coverage can enroll in a Medicare Advantage/prescription drug plan with benefits tailored to meet their unique needs. These "special needs plans (SNPs)" were created by the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 to serve beneficiaries with serious, long-term illnesses who may have multiple medical conditions and multiple treatment modalities. Special needs plans offer better coordination of care for these beneficiaries than many currently receive. Special needs plans typically have specialists in the diseases affecting the populations they enroll and clinical case management programs targeted to the needs of this special population. They are also expected to have formularies that include the drugs most needed by these beneficiaries.

### Section

- 1 Alternative services; elderly and disabled persons.** Amends § 256B.69, subd. 23. Allows the commissioner to contract with Medicare-approved Special Needs Plans to provide Medicaid services. Strikes language related to the long-term care developmental disability pilot project that limits this project to a nonprofit long-term care system providing specified

**Section**

services and limiting the pilot to no more than 120 consumers with developmental disabilities in Carver, Hennepin, and Scott counties.