

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill makes a number of changes in the eligibility criteria that apply to children on MinnesotaCare, exempts children with incomes at or below 200 percent of FPG from premiums, and contains other related provisions. The changes in eligibility for children include allowing children with incomes above the program limit to remain enrolled, allowing children who do not submit renewal forms in a timely manner to remain eligible, increasing the income limit below which children are exempt from insurance barriers, and providing automatic eligibility for certain children who had resided in foster care or a juvenile residential facility. The bill also makes changes in enrollment and renewal procedures for MA and MinnesotaCare and modifies criteria and provides funding for outreach grants.

Section

1 Simplification of enrollment and renewal procedures. Adds § 256.0122.

Subd. 1. Preprinted forms for renewals. Requires the commissioner to develop preprinted renewal forms for children enrolled in MA or MinnesotaCare that contains the income information available to the commissioner. Requires the commissioner to determine eligibility based on information in the form, if a corrected form is not returned, and specifies related procedures.

Subd. 2. Continuous eligibility. States that children under age 19 who at the time of application meet MA or MinnesotaCare eligibility criteria, shall be continuously eligible for 12 months or until the child reaches age 19, whichever is earlier.

Subd. 3. Open enrollment and streamlined application and enrollment process. Requires the commissioner and local agencies to develop a streamlined and efficient application and enrollment process for MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees that

meet the criteria specified in the subdivision. The subdivision also requires the commissioners of human services and education to provide recommendations to the legislature by January 15, 2010, on the creation of an open enrollment process tied to the public education system. Also requires the submittal on that date of an implementation plan for the open enrollment period and online application process. Requires the open enrollment process to be implemented with the 2010-2011 school year.

Subd. 4. Express lane eligibility. Requires that children who complete an application for educational benefits and indicate an interest in MA or MinnesotaCare enrollment have the application considered an application for the program. Specifies the procedures to be followed for this application process.

- 2 Outreach grants.** Amends § 256.962, subd. 2. Adds, as an outreach activity eligible for an outreach grant, targeting families with incomes below 200 percent of FPG or who belong to underserved populations. Provides \$2 million from the health care access fund for outreach purposes.
- 3 Families with children.** Amends § 256L.04, subd. 1. Exempts children eligible under § 256L.07, subd. 8, from program income limits and other requirements of the subdivision.
- 4 Children with family income greater than 275 percent of federal poverty guidelines.** Amends § 256L.04, by adding subd. 1b. Allows children with family incomes greater than 275 percent of FPG to be eligible for MinnesotaCare. Provides that all MinnesotaCare provisions, including the insurance-related barriers, apply unless otherwise specified.
- 5 Ineligibility.** Amends § 256L.04, subd. 7a. Limits the applicability of a prohibition on enrollment in MinnesotaCare when income is greater than the program income limit to adults.
- 6 Effective date of coverage.** Amends § 256L.05, subd. 3. Provides that the effective date of coverage for children is the first day of the month following the date of termination from foster care or release from a juvenile residential facility.
- 7 Renewal of eligibility.** Amends § 256L.05, subd. 3a. The amendment to paragraph (d) makes a conforming change.

A new paragraph (e) allows children in families with income not exceeding 275 percent of FPG, who fail to submit renewal forms and related documentation in a timely manner, to remain eligible for MinnesotaCare (under current law, one additional month of eligibility is allowed). Requires the commissioner to verify family income, notify families of any premium payment due as a result of changes in income, and disenrolls children if premium payment is not received.

A new paragraph (f) provides that for children enrolled under § 256L.07, subd. 8, the first period of renewal begins the month the enrollee turns 21.

- 8 General requirements.** Amends § 256L.07, subd. 1. The amendment to paragraph (a) increases from 150 to 200 percent of FPG the income level below which children are exempt from: (1) the requirement that enrollees have no access to employer-subsidized insurance and no access to such insurance through the current employer for 18 months prior to application; and (2) the requirement that persons have no health coverage for four months

prior to application. Also makes a conforming change.

The amendment to paragraph (b) allows children to remain on MinnesotaCare if family income exceeds 275 percent of FPG. (Under current law, children can remain enrolled if 10 percent of family income is less than the annual premium for a \$500 MCHA policy.)

The amendment to paragraph (c) makes a conforming change.

- 9** **Must not have access to employer-subsidized insurance.** Amends § 256L.07, subd. 2. Exempts children with family incomes that do not exceed 200 percent of FPG from the requirement that enrollees have no access to employer-subsidized insurance, and no access to such insurance through the current employer for 18 months prior to application. (The income limit for this exemption under current law is 150 percent of FPG.)
- 10** **Other health coverage.** Amends § 256L.07, subd. 3. Exempts children with family incomes not exceeding 200 percent of FPG from the requirement that persons have no health coverage for four months prior to application and renewal (current law income limit for this exemption is 150 percent of FPG). Also increases from 150 to 200 percent of FPG the income at or below which children are eligible for MinnesotaCare, if they have other health coverage but are considered to be underinsured.
- 11** **Automatic eligibility for certain children.** Amends § 256L.07, by adding subd. 8. Deems children who were residing in foster care or a juvenile residential facility on their 18th birthday as automatically eligible for MinnesotaCare upon termination or release, and exempt from program insurance barriers until the child reaches age 21.
- 12** **Sliding fee scale; monthly gross individual or family income.** Amends § 256L.15, subd. 2. Provides that children in families with income at or below 200 percent of FPG pay no premiums. (Under current law, children in families with income at or below 150 percent of FPG pay premiums of \$4/month.)
- 13** **Exceptions to sliding scale.** Amends § 256L.15, subd. 3. Provides that children in families with income at or below 200 percent of FPG pay no premiums.
- 14** **Exemption.** Amends § 256L.17, subd. 5. Clarifies that children are not subject to the MinnesotaCare asset limit. (Children are exempted under current law in a section that is repealed by the bill.)
- 15** **Federal approval.** Requires the commissioner of human services to resubmit for federal approval requests to: (1) eliminate the add-back of depreciation to income for self-employed farmers; and (2) provide two months of additional MA eligibility and automatic MinnesotaCare eligibility for certain children.
- 16** **Repealer.** Repeals § 256L.17, subd. 6 (exemption of children from MinnesotaCare asset limit contingent on a federal waiver not being granted to permit applying the asset limit to children).