Page 1, line 11, after "Language" insert "or other signed language, visual and manual means of communication such as signing systems in English or Cued Speech."

Page 1, after line 12, insert:

"Sec. .... Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 256C.23, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 1a. **Culturally affirmative services.** "Culturally affirmative services" means services that are designed and delivered within the context of the culture, language, and life experiences of a person who is deaf, a person who is deafblind, and a person who is hard-of-hearing.

Sec. .... Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 256C.23, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2c. **Interpreting services.** "Interpreting services" means services that include:

(1) interpreting between a spoken language, such as English, and a visual language, such as American Sign Language;

(2) interpreting between a spoken language and a visual representation of a spoken language, such as Cued Speech and signing systems in English;

(3) interpreting within one language where the interpreter uses natural gestures and silently repeats the spoken message, replacing some words or phrases to give higher visibility on the lips; and

(4) interpreting using low vision or tactile methods for people who have a combined hearing and vision loss or are deafblind."
Page 1, line 23, strike "social" and after the stricken "occupational" insert "social-emotional"

Page 2, line 12, strike "service centers" and insert "culturally affirmative services"

Page 3, line 1, delete the third "and"

Page 3, line 2, delete "possible" and insert "practicable"

Page 3, line 3, delete the period and insert "; and"

Page 3, after line 3, insert:

"(8) report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services biennially, beginning on January 1, 2019, on the following:

(i) the number of regional service center staff, the location of the office of each staff person, other service providers with which they are co-located, the number of people served by each staff person and a breakdown of whether each person was served on-site or off-site, and for those served off-site, a list of locations where services were delivered and the number who were served in-person and the number who were served via technology;

(ii) the amount and percent of the division budget spent on accommodations for staff;

(iii) the number of people who use demonstration equipment and consumer evaluations of the experience;

(iv) the number of training sessions provided by division staff, the topics covered, the number of participants, and consumer evaluations, including a breakdown by delivery method such as in-person or via technology;

(v) the number of training sessions hosted at a division location provided by another service provider, the topics covered, the number of participants, and consumer evaluations, including a breakdown by delivery method such as in-person or via technology;

(vi) for each grant awarded, the amount awarded to the grantee and a summary of the grantee's results, including consumer evaluations of the services or products provided;

(vii) the number of people on waiting lists for any services provided by division staff or for services or equipment funded through grants awarded by the division;

(viii) the amount of time staff spent driving to appointments in clients' homes to deliver direct one-to-one client services in locations outside of the regional service centers; and
(ix) the amount spent on mileage reimbursement and the number of clients who received
mileage reimbursement for traveling to the regional service centers for services."

Page 3, line 12, delete the first comma and insert "and collaborations" and delete the
comma

Page 3, line 25, delete "provide or coordinate" and insert "identify regional training
needs, work with deaf and hard-of-hearing services training staff, and collaborate with
others to deliver"

Page 3, line 28, delete "methods" and insert "options"

Page 3, lines 29 and 30, strike the old language and delete the new language and insert
"(6) have a mobile or permanent lab"

Page 4, line 2, after "try" insert "a selection of modern assistive technology and"

Page 4, line 30, delete everything after the first period

Page 5, lines 2 to 6, strike the old language and delete the new language and insert "use
at least 35 percent of the deafblind services biennial base level grant funding for services
and other supports for a child who is deafblind and the child's family. The commissioner
shall use at least 25 percent of the deafblind services biennial base level grant funding for
services and other supports for an adult who is deafblind."

Page 5, after line 16, insert:

"(c) Consumer-directed services shall be provided in whole by grant-funded providers.
The deaf and hard-of-hearing regional service centers shall not provide any aspect of a
grant-funded consumer-directed services program."

Page 5, line 17, strike "(c)" and insert "(d)"

Page 5, line 19, strike "(d)" and insert "(e)"

Page 5, line 27, delete everything after the period

Page 5, line 28, delete "language." and insert "The recommendations must address:"

Page 5, after line 28, insert:

"(1) types of equipment and supports the program should provide to ensure people with
communication difficulties have equitable access to telecommunications services;

(2) additional services the program should provide such as education about technology
options that can improve a person's access to telecommunications service; and
(3) how the current program's service delivery structure might be improved to better meet the needs of people with communication disabilities.

The commissioner shall also provide draft legislative language to accomplish the recommendations."

"Page 5, before line 29, insert:

"Sec. .... DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; BILLING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

By January 1, 2018, the commissioner of human services shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over deaf and hard-of-hearing services on the potential costs and benefits of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Division billing for the cost of providing mental health services."

Page 6, line 11, after the first period, insert "Each year the division must provide funds for training in ProTactile American Sign Language or other communication systems used by people who are deafblind. Training shall be provided to persons who are deafblind and to interpreters, support service providers, and interveners who work with persons who are deafblind."

Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

Amend the title accordingly