Overview

H.F. 2553 codifies the original session law that authorized, but did not provide funding for, a supportive housing and managed care pilot project for homeless persons as a pilot project that will be established in one county in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and one county outside of the metro area. The pilot project sunsets on June 30, 2006.

The bill also specifies that the homeless participants to be enrolled in the pilot project may be: families or pregnant women who are receiving or meet the income guidelines for the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP); employed families whose household income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for the group residential housing (GRH) program; or noncustodial working parents whose household income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

The bill appropriates $3 million of the state's federal TANF funds for the pilot project, and also makes an in-blank general fund appropriation for services that cannot be paid for with TANF funds.

1 Supportive housing and managed care pilot project. (Adds new § 256K.25) This section codifies the original session law that authorized, but did not provide funding for, a supportive housing and managed care pilot project for homeless individuals. This section requires the commissioner of human services to establish the pilot project in two counties.

Subd. 1. Establishment and purpose. In paragraph (a), requires the commissioner to establish a supportive housing and managed care pilot project in one county in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and in one county outside of that metropolitan area. The purpose of the pilot project is to determine whether the integrated delivery of employment services, supportive services, housing and health care will be an effective way to provide services to and increase the
employment rates of homeless families and individuals.

In paragraph (b), requires the commissioner to create a block grant program for this pilot project. Also requires the commissioner, in cooperation with counties and their nonprofit partners to develop minimum project and application requirements.

In paragraph (c), requires services provided under the project to be coordinated with each participant's available health care services.

**Subd. 2. Definition.** Defines the term "homeless" for purposes of this pilot project.

**Subd. 3. County eligibility.** Specifies that in order to request funding under this project, a county must agree to develop or contract with, a pilot project that integrates the delivery of employment services, supportive services, housing and health care. Also specifies that for project participants who are also MFIP recipients, the county must ensure that services provided under this project are closely coordinated with the MFIP services. Also requires the county to develop a method to evaluate the quality of integrated services provided, and to evaluate the amount of any resulting cost savings.

**Subd. 4. Participant eligibility.** In paragraph (a), specifies that an eligible participant must: be homeless or at risk of homelessness; have a mental illness, a history of substance abuse, or HIV; and, if a family, meet the criteria in paragraph (b), or if an individual, meet the criteria in paragraph (c).

In paragraph (b), requires an eligible family to: include a minor child or pregnant woman; be receiving or meet the income eligibility guidelines for MFIP; or include an adult caregiver who is employed or is receiving employment services and whose household income is at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

In paragraph (c), requires an eligible individual to: be eligible for the group residential housing (GRH) program; or be a noncustodial parent who is employed or is receiving employment services and whose household income is at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

**Subd. 5. Funding.** Authorizes a county to request funding for a specified number of project participants. Requires the commissioner to review the funding request, and authorizes the commissioner to approve or disapprove the request. Requires the commissioner to allocate funding for approved counties as a block grant, paid monthly.

**Subd. 6. Report.** Beginning December 1, 2001, requires the participating counties and the commissioner to issue an annual report on the pilot project to the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees. The report must cover the pilot project's use of public resources, the employment and housing status of the project's participants, and the cost-effectiveness of the project. Requires the commissioner to provide data needed to evaluate the project to a participating county that requests the data.

**Subd. 7. Sunset.** Specifies that the pilot project sunsets on June 30, 2006.

2 **Federal TANF funds; appropriation.** Appropriates $3 million of the state's federal TANF funds to the commissioner of human services for grants to counties for the pilot project in section 1. Specifies that this appropriation is available until expended.

3 **Appropriation; general fund.** Makes an in-blank general fund to the commissioner of human services for fiscal year 2001, to provide services under the pilot project for which federal TANF monies cannot be used.

4 **Repealer.** Repeals Laws 1999, chapter 245, article 5, section 24, which was the original session law that authorized this supportive housing and managed care pilot project.