Overview

This bill creates a comprehensive program in the department of human services to serve homeless and runaway youth.

1 Definitions.
   Subd. 1. Application. Provides that the definitions in this section apply to this chapter and elsewhere unless otherwise defined.
   Subd. 2 through 5. Defines the following terms: commissioner, homeless youth, youth at risk of homelessness, and runaway.

2 Homeless and runaway youth initiative.
   Subd. 1. Provides that DHS is responsible for a comprehensive initiative for homeless youth, youth at risk of homelessness, and runaways. Requires DHS to contract with organizations and public and private agencies to provide services.
   Subd. 2. Provides that this chapter does not relieve counties of existing duties to provide services for homeless and runaway youth.
   Subd. 3. Provides that homeless youth age 18 to 21 may also use adult services.

3 Street outreach and drop-in services. Describes the street outreach and drop-in services program. Lists information, referrals, and services that may be provided.

4 Emergency shelter services.
   Subd. 1. Scope. Describes the emergency shelter program.
   Subd. 2. Services provided. Lists services that may be provided.
   Subd. 3. Parental and law enforcement notification. Clarifies that emergency shelters must comply with existing laws relating to child protection and child abuse reporting. Requires emergency shelters to attempt to notify a runaway's parent or legal guardian of the runaway's location and status within 72 hours. Requires the shelter to inform the parent or guardian of the
runaway's condition and the circumstances surrounding admission, unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Provides that compelling reasons may include abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, and abandonment.

**Transitional living.** Describes the transitional living program. Lists services that may be provided.