Overview

This bill allows a nonprofit community health care facility providing culturally competent health care to apply for essential community provider status, and also establishes a review process for continuation of essential community provider status.

1 **Application.** Amends § 62Q.19, subd. 2. Allows the commissioner of health to accept an application for essential community provider (ECP) status until June 30, 2001, if the applicant is a nonprofit community health care facility that is an MA provider and delivers culturally competent health care to an under served Southeast Asian immigrant and refugee population residing in the neighborhood of the facility. (Under current law, organizations had to apply for ECP status within two years of the adoption of ECP rules; the last date to apply for ECP status was July 8, 1998.)

2 **Termination or renewal of designation; commissioner review.** Amends § 62Q.19, subd. 6. Requires the commissioner to review each ECP designation after five years. Allows the commissioner to renew the designation for an additional five-year period, or terminate the designation. (Under current law, a designation terminates five years after it is granted or when universal coverage is achieved, whichever is later.) Also strikes language requiring the commissioner to report on the duration of the ECP designation.

3 **Effective date.** Provides that section 1 is effective the day following final enactment.