Overview

This bill establishes a social services child care assistance pool to provide child care assistance to eligible MFIP families, establishes an intensive ESL grant program, and appropriates TANF block grant funds.

1 **Social service child care pool for MFIP child care.** Establishes a MFIP social services child care pool to provide child care assistance for eligible MFIP families participating in approved social services activities. Requires any unspent funds in the MFIP social services child care pool to be used for the basic sliding fee program. Requires the commissioner of children, families, and learning to notify the chairs of the family and early childhood finance committees in the house and senate if expenditures from the MFIP social services child care pool are expected to exceed the amount available. Establishes criteria for eligibility for the MFIP social services child care pool. The criteria include participation in chemical dependency or mental health social services as an approved activity in the participant's employment or job search support plan. Allows child care assistance to be provided to an eligible MFIP participant for the amount of time necessary to participate in the approved social service plus reasonable travel time. Requires the county providing child care assistance to notify the commissioner through the quarterly reporting process of any family that is eligible for the MFIP social services child care assistance pool.

2 **Intensive ESL grants.** Requires the commissioner of children, families, and learning to establish a grant program to fund intensive ESL programs for eligible adults who participate in the MFIP program. Requires intensive ESL instruction for MFIP participants who are making inadequate literacy progress as measured by a standardized assessment test. Requires that instruction be focused on participants gaining self-sufficiency through employment. Allows ABE programs, school districts, post-secondary institutions, and non-profit or community-based organizations or other private organizations with experience in providing English language instruction to non-English speaking immigrants and refugees to apply for grants. Requires that
applications include the applicant's experience in literacy programs serving immigrants and refugees, a description of fiscal accounting systems and reporting capacity, an assurance that administrative expenses are limited to five percent of grant funds, and a description of the proposed instructional services and training plans. This grant program expires on June 30, 2003.

3 Male responsibility and fathering grants. Eliminates the 2001 appropriation for male responsibility and fathering grants. Requires that these appropriations be a base for fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

4 TANF appropriations.

Subd. 1. Department of children, families, and learning. Requires the sums in this section to be appropriated to the commissioner of human services from the TANF block grant funds and transferred to the department of children, families, and learning for the fiscal years indicated.


Subd. 3. Intensive ESL grants. Appropriates $1,000,000 for each fiscal year 2001, 2002, and 2003. Allows the balance to be carried forward one fiscal year.


Subd. 5. Transition year families. Appropriates $2,870,000 in fiscal year 2001, $3,950,000 in fiscal year 2002, and $4,450,000 in fiscal year 2003 for uninterrupted assistance for families completing transition year child care assistance. Allows any balance to be carried forward one fiscal year. Requires that any remaining amount in fiscal year 2003 that is not needed be used for basic sliding fee assistance.