

- 5** **Additional duties.** Amends § 124D.141, subd. 2. Modifies the duties of the council by adding requirements that the council make recommendations to the governor and the legislature on creating a statewide school readiness report card and on how to screen and comprehensively assess children for school readiness. Lists items the council shall consider in making the recommendations. Allows the council to survey early childhood education and care programs to determine the screening and assessment tools being used or to rely on previously collected survey data, if available. For purposes of this subdivision, defines “school readiness,” “screening,” and “assessment.” Specifies that any costs incurred by the council in making these recommendations will be paid from private funds. Requires the council to report its recommendations to the governor and the legislature by January 15, 2012, with an interim report on February 15, 2011.
- 6** **Program requirements.** Amends § 124D.15, subd. 3. Modifies school readiness program requirements by removing the requirement to arrange for early childhood screening and appropriate referral.
- 7** **Program fees.** Amends § 124D.15, subd. 12. Requires school districts to use school readiness aid for eligible children. Allows children who do not meet the eligibility requirements of the program to participate on a fee-for-service basis.
- 8** **Eligibility.** Amends § 124D.15, by adding subd. 15. Specifies eligibility requirements for children to participate in school readiness programs.
- 9** **Uses of general revenue.** Amends § 124D.20, subd. 8. Allows general community education revenue to be used for school readiness programs. Makes technical changes.

Article 2: Child Care

Overview

This article contains provisions related to child care assistance.

- 1** **Factors which must be verified.** Amends § 119B.025, subd. 1. Defers redetermination of eligibility beyond six months, but not to exceed 12 months, for students who are under age 21 and meet certain other criteria.
- Adds paragraph (d), which specifies that families have the primary responsibility to verify information. Requires counties to consider the family’s circumstances and ability to produce verification when initiating a request for verification. Requires counties to request written consent from the family to obtain verification from other sources if the family is unable to verify an eligibility factor. Prohibits counties from requesting a specific form of verification if another is more readily available. Requires counties to accept a signed statement from the family attesting to the correctness of the information when verification of certain eligibility factors is not available. Requires counties to deny or end assistance to families who refuse or deliberately fail to verify information.
- 2** **Eligibility; annual income; calculation.** Amends § 119B.09, subd. 4. Defers recalculation of income beyond six months, but not to exceed 12 months, for students who are under age 21 and meet certain other criteria.

- 3 Quality rating system training, coaching, consultation, and supports.** Directs the commissioner of human services to direct \$500,000 in federal child care development funds in fiscal year 2011 for the purpose of providing statewide child care provider training, coaching, consultation, and supports to prepare for the Minnesota quality rating system. Specifies that this is a onetime appropriation. To the extent that private funds are made available, requires the commissioner to designate those funds for this purpose.
- 4 Child care assistance redetermination of eligibility and information verification.** Requires the commissioner of human services to use existing resources to implement the changes in this bill related to child care assistance redetermination of eligibility and information verification.
- 5 Child care development fund unexpended balance.** Requires the commissioner to carryover and expend in fiscal year 2011 \$7.5 million of the TANF funds transferred in fiscal year 2010 which reflect the child care and development fund unexpended balance for the basic sliding fee child care assistance program. Requires the commissioner to ensure that all the funds are expended according to the federal child care and development fund regulations related to TANF transfers.
- 6 Basic sliding fee.** Reduces the fiscal year 2011 general fund appropriation for the basic sliding fee child care program by \$7.5 million.