

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Household Size Methodology under Medical Assistance

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Overview

Family size is taken into account when determining whether an individual meets Medical Assistance income guidelines that are based on the federal poverty guidelines (FPG). The amount of income allowed under the FPG standard increases as family size increases. Federal regulations provide that when determining family size for a pregnant woman, “the pregnant woman is counted as herself plus the number of children she is expected to delivery” (42 CFR 435.603). This bill places this requirement in state law, and provides that an unborn child should be considered a human being for purposes of developing, administering, and interpreting state law and policy.

Section

- 1** **Income and assets generally.** Amends § 256B.056, subd. 1a. Directs the commissioner, when determining the family size of a pregnant woman for purposes of MA eligibility, to count the pregnant woman plus the number of children she is expected to deliver, as required under federal regulations. States that this household size methodology for pregnant women means that an unborn child shall be considered a human being for purposes of developing, administering, and interpreting state law and policy.