

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Miller

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Analyst: Elisabeth Klarqvist

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Overview

This bill expands eligibility for safe harbor services for sexually exploited youth or youth at risk of sexual exploitation provided by the commissioner of health and the commissioner of human services, to youth age 24 and younger. Currently these services are provided to youth age 18 and younger. It also make additional funds available for safe harbor services and appropriates money for safe harbor services.

Section

- 1 Duties of director.** Amends § 145.4716, subd. 2. Directs the director of child sex trafficking prevention at the Minnesota Department of Health to manage the program in section 609.3241 that distributes funds to crime victims services organizations to serve sexually exploited youth.
- 2 Youth eligible for services.** Adds subd. 3 to § 145.4716. Specifies that youth age 24 and younger are eligible for safe harbor services provided by the commissioner of health and for shelter, housing beds, and services provided by the commissioner of human services for sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation. (Currently these services are provided to youth age 18 and younger.)
- 3 Penalty assessment authorized.** Amends § 609.3241. Transfers management of the program to distribute funds to crime victims services organizations to serve sexually exploited youth, from the commissioner of public safety to the commissioner of health.

Section

4 Appropriations; sexually exploited youth. Appropriates money for safe harbor services.

Subd. 1. Commissioner of human services. Appropriates \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for shelter and housing beds for sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation, and for outreach workers to connect youth with shelter and services.

Subd. 2. Commissioner of health. Appropriates \$2,800,000 in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for services for sexually exploited youth, training for people who encounter sexually exploited youth in their work, implementing protocols for identifying and referring youth to appropriate resources, and program evaluation.