

Subject Baby's First Years demonstration project

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Summary

H.F. 3678 modifies dates related to the income and child development in the first three years of life demonstration project (also known as Baby's First Years). Baby's First Years is a project that studies the impact of monthly cash gifts to low-income mothers and their children in the first three years of the child's life. Mothers were recruited for the project in four metropolitan areas, including the Twin Cities. Recruitment was completed in June 2019, and the project has been on-going since then. Funding for the project comes from the National Institutes of Health and private organizations.

When the Twin Cities was selected as one of the sites for the project, the Minnesota legislature passed a law giving two directions to the commissioner of human services. First, the commissioner is prohibited from counting payments made to families under the project as: (1) income or assets for purposes of determining or re-determining eligibility for child care assistance (Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119B) or MFIP (Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256J); and (2) income for purposes of determining or re-determining eligibility for medical assistance (Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256B) and MinnesotaCare (Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256L). The prohibitions expire January 1, 2022. Second, the commissioner must report to the legislature on the progress and outcomes of the Baby's First Years project by January 1, 2023.

H.F. 3678 changes the current expiration date for the income-related prohibitions to January 1, 2026 and changes the deadline by which the commissioner must report to the legislature to January 1, 2027.