

**Subject** DHS Children and Families Policy Bill

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### Overview

This bill makes changes to Northstar kinship and adoption assistance and reimbursement provisions, updates adoption provisions, and updates sections related to out-of-home placement of children.

### Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <b>Permanent legal and physical custody.</b><br>Amends § 256N.02, subd. 16. Makes clarifying changes; specifies that joint custody arrangements with a child's parent and a relative custodian do not qualify for Northstar kinship assistance. |
| 2 | <b>Reassessment.</b><br>Amends § 256N.02, subd. 17. Removes "guardianship" from definition.   |
| 3 | <b>General eligibility requirements.</b><br>Amends § 256N.22, subd. 1. Makes clarifying changes related to permanent legal and physical custody.  |
| 4 | <b>Special needs determination.</b><br>Amends § 256N.23, subd. 2. Makes clarifying changes related to adoption consent; strikes cross-reference to direct adoptive placements section.  |
| 5 | <b>Exclusions.</b><br>Amends § 256N.23, subd. 6. Makes clarifying changes related to relative custodians receiving Northstar kinship assistance.  |

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
6	<p><b>Assessment.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256N.24, subd. 1. Removes reference to children eligible for kinship assistance, so that only at-risk children eligible for adoption assistance are excluded from the assessment provision.</p>
7	<p><b>Completing the special assessment.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256N.24, subd. 8. Strikes language regarding at-risk children in the special assessment process.</p>
8	<p><b>Completion of reassessment.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256N.24, subd. 11. Strikes language regarding kinship assistance in provision assigning assessment level when a child’s caregiver does not cooperate with a reassessment.</p>
9	<p><b>Approval of initial assessments, special assessments, and reassessments.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256N.24, subd. 12. Modifies terminology.</p>
10	<p><b>Assessment tool determines rate of benefits.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256N.24, subd. 14. Modifies terminology.</p>
11	<p><b>Agreement; Northstar kinship assistance; adoption assistance.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256N.25, subd. 1. Adds cross-reference.</p>
12	<p><b>Reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses.</b></p> <p>Amends § 256N.25 by adding subd. 1a. Paragraph (a) requires the commissioner to reimburse a relative custodian with a kinship assistance benefit agreement for costs incurred while seeking permanent legal and physical custody of the child, up to \$2,000. Outlines expenses eligible for reimbursement and process for requests.</p> <p>Paragraph (b) requires the commissioner to reimburse an adoptive parent for costs incurred when adopting a child with special needs, up to \$2,000. Outlines expenses eligible for reimbursement, children’s eligibility for adoption expense reimbursement, and process for requests.</p>
13	<p><b>Time for filing petition.</b></p> <p>Amends § 259.22, subd. 4. Updates cross-reference.</p>
14	<p><b>Adult adoption.</b></p> <p>Amends § 259.241. Adds paragraph to adult adoption section allowing a person in extended foster care to consent to his or her own adoption.</p>

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
15	<b>Parental responsibilities.</b> Amends § 259.35, subd. 1. Updates cross-reference.
16	<b>Preadoption residence.</b> Amends § 259.53, subd. 4. Makes clarifying changes.
17	<b>Reimbursement of nonrecurring adoption expenses.</b> Amends § 259.73. Updates cross-reference.
18	<b>Withdrawal of registration.</b> Amends § 259.75, subd. 5. Adds clarifying language.
19	<b>Periodic review of status.</b> Amends § 259.75, subd. 6. Modifies state adoption exchange status review provision; allows the commissioner to determine that a child who is not registered must be registered and to require the registration within 10 working days. Makes clarifying changes.
20	<b>Rules; staff.</b> Amends § 259.75, subd. 9. Allows commissioner to contract for services to carry out the section.
21	<b>Social and medical history.</b> Amends § 259.83, subd. 1a. Makes clarifying changes; updates cross-references.
22	<b>General information.</b> Amends § 259A.75, subd. 1. Makes clarifying change.
23	<b>Purchase of service contract child eligibility criteria.</b> Amends § 259A.75, subd. 2. Removes paragraph (b) regarding a child under the guardianship of the commissioner; makes clarifying changes.
24	<b>Agency eligibility criteria.</b> Amends § 259A.75, subd. 3. Makes clarifying change.
25	<b>Application and eligibility determination.</b> Amends § 259A.75, subd. 4. Makes clarifying changes.
26	<b>Licensed residential family-based substance use disorder treatment program.</b> Amends § 260C.007, subd. 22a. Makes clarifying changes.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
27	<b>Out-of-home placement; plan.</b> Amends § 260C.212, subd. 1. Modifies process for provision of a current copy of a child's health and education record upon the child's discharge from foster care. Allows the responsible social services agency to give the record and social and medical history to a child who is younger than 14, in certain circumstances.
28	<b>Placement decisions based on best interests of the child.</b> Amends § 260C.212, subd. 2. Includes the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child's siblings in who is considered a relative for placement decisions.
29	<b>Social and medical history.</b> Amends § 260C.212 by adding subd. 15. Adds subdivision requiring the responsible social services agency to complete each child's social and medical history using forms developed by the commissioner. Outlines further requirements for completing the social and medical history.
30	<b>Children reaching age of majority; copies of records.</b> Amends § 260C.219, subd. 5. Makes clarifying changes; updates cross-references.
31	<b>Termination of parental rights.</b> Amends § 260C.503, subd. 2. Updates cross-reference.
32	<b>Guardianship; commissioner.</b> Amends § 260C.515, subd. 3. Makes clarifying changes.
33	<b>Requirements.</b> Amends § 260C.605, subd. 1. Updates cross-references.
34	<b>Motion and hearing to order adoptive placement.</b> Amends § 260C.607, subd. 6. Updates cross-reference.
35	<b>Social and medical history.</b> Amends § 260C.609. Updates requirements for the responsible social services agency to provide a prospective adoptive parent with a child's social and medical history; specifies return of history and documents if the adoption is not pursued; requires the agency to submit the history to the Department of Human Services when the agency submits the child's adoption placement agreement.
36	<b>Duties of commissioner.</b> Amends § 260C.615. Updates cross-reference; makes clarifying changes.

Section	Description
37	<b>Repealer.</b> Repeals § 259A.70, governing reimbursement of nonrecurring adoption expenses.



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