

Subject Relative foster care

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Overview

This bill, as amended by H1424DE3, modifies a range of provisions related to child foster care provided by relatives. It modifies definitions to include important friends of the child or the child's parent or custodian, modifies licensing and training requirements for relative foster caregivers and their domestic partners, and modifies background study requirements for relative foster caregivers. The amended bill also exempts months when a child is with a relative foster caregiver from the 60-month limit on Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) payments, directs the commissioner to develop materials and guidelines related to relative foster care, and appropriates money for supporting relative caregiver grants.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Individual who is related.</p> <p>Amends § 142B.01, subd. 15. Specifies that for purposes of family child foster care, "individual who is related" includes an important friend of the child or of the child's parent or custodian.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Foster care by an individual who is related to a child; license required.</p> <p>Amends § 142B.05, subd. 3. Adds paragraph (b), specifying that a relative may seek foster care licensure through the county agency or a private agency, requiring the county agency to provide information to all potential relative foster care providers about the choice, and specifying that counties are not obligated to pay private agency services costs.</p> <p>Adds paragraph (c), specifying that only the individual related to the child must be licensed, if the individual has a domestic partner but is not married. Specifies that background studies on household members are required.</p> |

Section	Description
3	<p>Training on risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma for child foster care providers.</p> <p>Amends § 142B.47. Exempts individuals related to a child from completing training under this section before caring for the child; requires training to be completed within 30 days of foster care licensure.</p>
4	<p>Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.</p> <p>Amends § 142B.51, subd. 2. Adds paragraph (f), requiring a relative foster caregiver to complete training under this section within 30 days of foster care licensure, rather than before caring for the child.</p>
5	<p>Child foster care training requirement; mental health training; fetal alcohol spectrum disorders training.</p> <p>Amends § 142B.80. Exempts relative foster care license holders who only serve a child who does not have a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) from annual FASD training requirement.</p>
6	<p>Child foster care training; relative caregivers.</p> <p>Proposes coding for § 142B.81. Exempts relative child foster care license holders who only care for relative children from training requirements in rules, and instead requires them to complete at least six hours of in-service training annually, in specified subjects. Requires license holders to consult with the licensing agency regarding which training subjects to complete.</p>
7	<p>Family.</p> <p>Amends § 142E.01, subd. 14. Modifies definition of “family” in child care assistance program chapter to include relative caregivers and their spouses residing in the same household.</p>
8	<p>Caregiver.</p> <p>Amends § 142G.02, subd. 12. For purposes of child-only MFIP cases, modifies definition of “caregiver” to include an individual who is an important friend of the child or the child’s parent or custodian.</p>
9	<p>Exemption for certain families.</p> <p>Amends § 142G.40, subd. 4. Adds paragraph (f), to specify that during months when a caregiver is a child’s relative caregiver, any cash assistance does not count toward the 60-month limit on receiving assistance.</p>

Section	Description
10	<p>Relative.</p> <p>Amends § 245C.02 by adding subd. 16b. Defines “relative” for purposes of human services background studies under chapter 245C.</p>
11	<p>Licensed family foster setting disqualifications.</p> <p>Amends § 245C.15, subd. 4a. Removes first degree assault from list of permanent disqualifications for licensed family foster setting background studies and adds the crime to the list of five-year disqualifications. Adds paragraph (c), clause (2), to specify that a relative foster caregiver is disqualified for seven years for a termination of parental rights (this is a 20-year disqualification for nonrelative licensed family foster settings).</p> <p>Adds paragraph (g), specifying that for purposes of a five-year disqualification for a relative foster caregiver, the disqualification begins from the date of the alleged violation.</p>
12	<p>Relative notice requirements.</p> <p>Amends § 260C.221, subd. 2. Adds supportive services and foster care licensing and adoption home study requirements to subjects about which the responsible social services agency must notify relatives of children in need of protection or services.</p>
13	<p>Direction to commissioner of children, youth, and families.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner of children, youth, and families to make all home study and background study materials for relative foster caregivers available in the 20 most commonly spoken languages in Minnesota, and to make those materials available in American Sign Language and accessible to individuals with disabilities.</p>
14	<p>Direction to commissioner of children, youth, and families; relative child foster care home study.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner to create guidelines, in consultation with stakeholders, for home studies for individuals seeking to provide foster care for a relative child.</p>
15	<p>Appropriation; supporting relative caregiver grants.</p> <p>Appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner of children, youth, and families for permanency support services in the supporting relative caregiver grant program.</p>



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