

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 2436 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "ARTICLE 1

1.4 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.03, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.6 to read:

1.7 Subd. 35. **Electronic benefits transfer; contracting and procurement.** Notwithstanding
1.8 chapter 16C, the commissioner is exempt from the contract term limits for the issuance of
1.9 public benefits through an electronic benefit transfer system and related services. These
1.10 contracts may have up to an initial five-year term, with extensions not to exceed a ten-year
1.11 total contract duration.

1.12 ARTICLE 2

1.13 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE POLICY

1.14 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.01, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

1.15 Subd. 15. **Individual who is related.** "Individual who is related" means a spouse, a
1.16 parent, a birth or adopted child or stepchild, a stepparent, a stepbrother, a stepsister, a niece,
1.17 a nephew, an adoptive parent, a grandparent, a sibling, an aunt, an uncle, or a legal guardian.
1.18 For purposes of family child foster care, individual who is related also includes an individual
1.19 who, prior to the child's placement in the individual's home for foster care or adoption, was
1.20 an important friend of the child or of the child's parent or custodian, including an individual
1.21 with whom the child has resided or had significant contact or who has a significant
1.22 relationship to the child or the child's parent or custodian.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.05, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.2 Subd. 3. **Foster care by an individual who is related to a child; license required.** (a)
2.3 Notwithstanding subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (1), in order to provide foster care for
2.4 a child, an individual who is related to the child, other than a parent, or legal guardian, must
2.5 be licensed by the commissioner except as provided by section 142B.06.

2.6 (b) An individual who is related to the child may seek foster care licensure through the
2.7 county agency or a private agency in the community designated or licensed by the
2.8 commissioner. The county agency must provide information to all potential relative foster
2.9 care providers about this choice. Counties are not obligated to pay costs for services provided
2.10 by private agencies.

2.11 (c) If an individual who is related to a child is seeking licensure to provide foster care
2.12 for the child and the individual has a domestic partner but is not married to the domestic
2.13 partner, only the individual related to the child must be licensed to provide foster care. The
2.14 commissioner must conduct background studies on household members according to section
2.15 245C.03, subdivision 1.

2.16 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.47, is amended to read:

2.17 **142B.47 TRAINING ON RISK OF SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH**
2.18 **AND ABUSIVE HEAD TRAUMA FOR CHILD FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS.**

2.19 (a) Licensed child foster care providers, except individuals related to the child, that care
2.20 for infants or children through five years of age must document that before caregivers assist
2.21 in the care of infants or children through five years of age, ~~they~~ the caregivers are instructed
2.22 on the standards in section 142B.46 and receive training on reducing the risk of sudden
2.23 unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma from shaking infants and young children.
2.24 Licensed child foster care providers who are related to the child and who only serve a relative
2.25 child must document completion of the training required under this section within 30 days
2.26 after licensure. This section does not apply to emergency relative placement under section
2.27 142B.06. The training on reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive
2.28 head trauma may be provided as:

2.29 (1) orientation training to child foster care providers who care for infants or children
2.30 through five years of age under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 1; or

2.31 (2) in-service training to child foster care providers who care for infants or children
2.32 through five years of age under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2.

3.1 (b) Training required under this section must be at least one hour in length and must be
3.2 completed at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the risk
3.3 factors related to sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma, means of reducing
3.4 the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma, and license holder
3.5 communication with parents regarding reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death
3.6 and abusive head trauma.

3.7 (c) Training for child foster care providers must be approved by the county or private
3.8 licensing agency that is responsible for monitoring the child foster care provider under
3.9 section 142B.30. The approved training fulfills, in part, training required under Minnesota
3.10 Rules, part 2960.3070.

3.11 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.51, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

3.12 Subd. 2. **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.** (a) Programs
3.13 licensed by the Department of Human Services under chapter 245A or the Department of
3.14 Children, Youth, and Families under this chapter and Minnesota Rules, chapter 2960, that
3.15 serve a child or children under eight years of age must document training that fulfills the
3.16 requirements in this subdivision.

3.17 (b) Before a license holder, staff person, or caregiver transports a child or children under
3.18 age eight in a motor vehicle, the person transporting the child must satisfactorily complete
3.19 training on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles.
3.20 Training completed under this section may be used to meet initial or ongoing training under
3.21 Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subparts 1 and 2.

3.22 (c) Training required under this section must be completed at orientation or initial training
3.23 and repeated at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the
3.24 proper use of child restraint systems based on the child's size, weight, and age, and the
3.25 proper installation of a car seat or booster seat in the motor vehicle used by the license
3.26 holder to transport the child or children.

3.27 (d) Training under paragraph (c) must be provided by individuals who are certified and
3.28 approved by the Office of Traffic Safety within the Department of Public Safety. License
3.29 holders may obtain a list of certified and approved trainers through the Department of Public
3.30 Safety website or by contacting the agency.

3.31 (e) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), for an emergency relative placement under section
3.32 142B.06, the commissioner may grant a variance to the training required by this subdivision
3.33 for a relative who completes a child seat safety check up. The child seat safety check up

4.1 trainer must be approved by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, and
 4.2 must provide one-on-one instruction on placing a child of a specific age in the exact child
 4.3 passenger restraint in the motor vehicle in which the child will be transported. Once granted
 4.4 a variance, and if all other licensing requirements are met, the relative applicant may receive
 4.5 a license and may transport a relative foster child younger than eight years of age. A child
 4.6 seat safety check up must be completed each time a child requires a different size car seat
 4.7 according to car seat and vehicle manufacturer guidelines. A relative license holder must
 4.8 complete training that meets the other requirements of this subdivision prior to placement
 4.9 of another foster child younger than eight years of age in the home or prior to the renewal
 4.10 of the child foster care license.

4.11 (f) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), a child foster care license holder who is an individual
 4.12 related to the child and who only serves a relative child must document completion of the
 4.13 training required under this section within 30 days after licensure.

4.14 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.80, is amended to read:

4.15 **142B.80 CHILD FOSTER CARE TRAINING REQUIREMENT; MENTAL**
 4.16 **HEALTH TRAINING; FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS TRAINING.**

4.17 Prior to a nonemergency placement of a child in a foster care home, the child foster care
 4.18 license holder and caregivers in foster family and treatment foster care settings must complete
 4.19 two hours of training that addresses the causes, symptoms, and key warning signs of mental
 4.20 health disorders; cultural considerations; and effective approaches for dealing with a child's
 4.21 behaviors. At least one hour of the annual training requirement for the foster family license
 4.22 holder and caregivers must be on children's mental health issues and treatment. Except for
 4.23 providers and services under chapter 245D and child foster care license holders who are
 4.24 individuals related to the child and who only serve a relative child who does not have fetal
 4.25 alcohol spectrum disorder, the annual training must also include at least one hour of training
 4.26 on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, which must be counted toward the 12 hours of required
 4.27 in-service training per year. Short-term substitute caregivers are exempt from these
 4.28 requirements. Training curriculum shall be approved by the commissioner of children,
 4.29 youth, and families.

4.30 Sec. 6. **142B.81] CHILD FOSTER CARE TRAINING; RELATIVE CAREGIVERS.**

4.31 Notwithstanding the required hours under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2,
 4.32 a child foster care license holder who is an individual related to the child must complete a
 4.33 minimum of six hours of in-service training per year in one or more of the areas in Minnesota

5.1 Rules, part 2960.3070, subpart 2, or in other areas as agreed upon by the licensing agency
5.2 and the foster parent. The relative child foster care license holder must consult with the
5.3 licensing agency and complete training in areas that are most applicable to caring for the
5.4 relative children in foster care in the home. This section does not apply to a child foster care
5.5 license holder who is licensed to care for both a relative child and a nonrelative child.

5.6 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245C.02, is amended by adding a subdivision to
5.7 read:

5.8 Subd. 16b. **Relative.** "Relative" has the meaning given in section 260C.007, subdivision
5.9 27. For purposes of background studies affiliated with child foster care licensure, a person
5.10 is a relative if the person was known to the child or the child's parent before the child is
5.11 placed in foster care.

5.12 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.65, is amended to read:

5.13 **260.65 NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS; RELATIVE PLACEMENT.**

5.14 (a) Prior to the removal of an African American or a disproportionately represented child
5.15 from the child's home, the responsible social services agency must make active efforts to
5.16 identify and locate the child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and the child's relatives
5.17 to notify the child's parent and relatives that the child is or will be placed in foster care; and
5.18 provide the child's parent and relatives with a list of legal resources. The notice to the child's
5.19 noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and relatives must also include the information
5.20 required under section 260C.221, subdivision 2, paragraph (b). The responsible social
5.21 services agency must maintain detailed records of the agency's efforts to notify parents and
5.22 relatives under this section.

5.23 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 260C.219, the responsible social services
5.24 agency must assess an African American or a disproportionately represented child's
5.25 noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent's ability to care for the child before placing the child
5.26 in foster care. If a child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent is willing and able to provide
5.27 daily care for the African American or disproportionately represented child temporarily or
5.28 permanently, the court shall order ~~that the child be placed in~~ into the home of the noncustodial
5.29 or nonadjudicated parent pursuant to section 260C.178 or 260C.201, subdivision 1. The
5.30 responsible social services agency must make active efforts to assist a noncustodial or
5.31 nonadjudicated parent with remedying any issues that may prevent the child from being
5.32 ~~placed with the~~ ordered into the home of a noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent.

6.1 (c) The relative search, notice, engagement, and placement consideration requirements
6.2 under section 260C.221 apply under this act.

6.3 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.66, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.4 Subdivision 1. **Emergency removal or placement permitted.** Nothing in this section
6.5 shall be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an African American or a
6.6 disproportionately represented ~~child's parent or custodian~~ child or the emergency placement
6.7 of the child in a foster setting in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the
6.8 child.

6.9 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.691, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.10 Subdivision 1. **Establishment and duties.** (a) The African American Child and Family
6.11 Well-Being Advisory Council is established for the Department of Children, Youth, and
6.12 Families.

6.13 (b) The council shall consist of 31 members appointed by the commissioner and must
6.14 include representatives with lived personal or professional experience within African
6.15 American communities. Members may include but are not limited to youth who have exited
6.16 the child welfare system; parents; legal custodians; relative and kinship caregivers or foster
6.17 care providers; community service providers, advocates, and members; county and private
6.18 social services agency case managers; representatives from faith-based institutions; academic
6.19 professionals; a representative from the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage; the
6.20 Ombudsperson for African American Families; and other individuals with experience and
6.21 knowledge of African American communities. Council members must be selected through
6.22 an open appointments process under section 15.0597. The terms, compensation, and removal
6.23 of council members are governed by section 15.059.

6.24 (c) The African American Child Well-Being Advisory council must:

6.25 (1) review annual reports related to African American children involved in the child
6.26 welfare system. These reports may include but are not limited to the maltreatment,
6.27 out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American children;

6.28 (2) assist with and make recommendations to the commissioner for developing strategies
6.29 to reduce maltreatment determinations, prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement, promote
6.30 culturally appropriate foster care and shelter or facility placement decisions and settings for
6.31 African American children in need of out-of-home placement, ensure timely achievement

7.1 of permanency, and improve child welfare outcomes for African American children and
7.2 their families;

7.3 (3) review summary reports on targeted case reviews prepared by the commissioner to
7.4 ensure that responsible social services agencies meet the needs of African American children
7.5 and their families. Based on data collected from those reviews, the council shall assist the
7.6 commissioner with developing strategies needed to improve any identified child welfare
7.7 outcomes, including but not limited to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency
7.8 for African American children;

7.9 (4) ~~assist the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council with making~~ make
7.10 recommendations to the commissioner and the legislature for public policy and statutory
7.11 changes that specifically consider the needs of African American children and their families
7.12 involved in the child welfare system;

7.13 (5) advise the commissioner on stakeholder engagement strategies and actions that the
7.14 commissioner and responsible social services agencies may take to improve child welfare
7.15 outcomes for African American children and their families;

7.16 (6) assist the commissioner with developing strategies for public messaging and
7.17 communication related to racial disproportionality and disparities in child welfare outcomes
7.18 for African American children and their families;

7.19 (7) assist the commissioner with identifying and developing internal and external
7.20 partnerships to support adequate access to services and resources for African American
7.21 children and their families, including but not limited to housing assistance, employment
7.22 assistance, food and nutrition support, health care, child care assistance, and educational
7.23 support and training; and

7.24 (8) assist the commissioner with developing strategies to promote the development of
7.25 a culturally diverse and representative child welfare workforce in Minnesota that includes
7.26 professionals who are reflective of the community served and who have been directly
7.27 impacted by lived experiences within the child welfare system. The council must also assist
7.28 the commissioner with exploring strategies and partnerships to address education and training
7.29 needs, hiring, recruitment, retention, and professional advancement practices.

7.30 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.692, is amended to read:

7.31 **260.692 AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING UNIT.**

7.32 Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit,
7.33 currently established by the commissioner, must:

8.1 (1) assist with the development of African American cultural competency training and
8.2 review child welfare curriculum in the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy to
8.3 ensure that responsible social services agency staff and other child welfare professionals
8.4 are appropriately prepared to engage with African American children and their families and
8.5 to support family preservation and reunification;

8.6 (2) provide technical assistance, including on-site technical assistance, and case
8.7 consultation to responsible social services agencies to assist agencies with implementing
8.8 and complying with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare
8.9 Disproportionality Act;

8.10 (3) monitor individual county and statewide disaggregated and nondisaggregated data
8.11 to identify trends and patterns in child welfare outcomes, including but not limited to
8.12 reporting, maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American
8.13 children and develop strategies to address disproportionality and disparities in the child
8.14 welfare system;

8.15 (4) develop and implement a system for conducting case reviews when the commissioner
8.16 receives reports of noncompliance with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation
8.17 and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act or when requested by the parent or custodian of
8.18 an African American child. Case reviews may include but are not limited to a review of
8.19 placement prevention efforts, safety planning, case planning and service provision by the
8.20 responsible social services agency, relative placement consideration, and permanency
8.21 planning;

8.22 (5) establish and administer a request for proposals process for African American and
8.23 disproportionately represented family preservation grants under section 260.693, monitor
8.24 grant activities, and provide technical assistance to grantees;

8.25 (6) in coordination with the African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory
8.26 Council, coordinate services and create internal and external partnerships to support adequate
8.27 access to services and resources for African American children and their families, including
8.28 but not limited to housing assistance, employment assistance, food and nutrition support,
8.29 health care, child care assistance, and educational support and training; and

8.30 (7) develop public messaging and communication to inform the public about racial
8.31 disparities in child welfare outcomes, current efforts and strategies to reduce racial disparities,
8.32 and resources available to African American children and their families involved in the
8.33 child welfare system.

9.1 Subd. 2. **Case reviews.** (a) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit
9.2 must conduct systemic case reviews to monitor targeted child welfare outcomes, including
9.3 but not limited to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African
9.4 American children.

9.5 (b) The reviews under this subdivision must be conducted using a random sampling of
9.6 representative child welfare cases stratified for certain case related factors, including but
9.7 not limited to case type, maltreatment type, if the case involves out-of-home placement,
9.8 and other demographic variables. In conducting the reviews, unit staff may use court records
9.9 and documents, information from the social services information system, and other available
9.10 case file information to complete the case reviews.

9.11 (c) The frequency of the reviews and the number of cases, child welfare outcomes, and
9.12 selected counties reviewed shall be determined by the unit in consultation with the African
9.13 American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, with consideration given to the
9.14 availability of unit resources needed to conduct the reviews.

9.15 (d) The unit must monitor all case reviews and use the collective case review information
9.16 and data to generate summary case review reports, ensure compliance with the Minnesota
9.17 African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act, and
9.18 identify trends or patterns in child welfare outcomes for African American children.

9.19 (e) The unit must review information from members of the public received through the
9.20 compliance and feedback portal, including policy and practice concerns related to individual
9.21 child welfare cases. After assessing a case concern, the unit may determine if further
9.22 necessary action should be taken, which may include coordinating case remediation with
9.23 other relevant child welfare agencies in accordance with data privacy laws, including the
9.24 African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, and offering case
9.25 consultation and technical assistance to the responsible local social services agency as
9.26 needed or requested by the agency.

9.27 Subd. 3. **Reports.** (a) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit must
9.28 provide regular updates on unit activities, including summary reports of case reviews, to
9.29 the African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council, and must publish
9.30 an annual census of African American children in out-of-home placements statewide. The
9.31 annual census must include data on the types of placements, age and sex of the children,
9.32 how long the children have been in out-of-home placements, and other relevant demographic
9.33 information.

10.1 (b) The African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit shall gather summary data
10.2 about the practice and policy inquiries and individual case concerns received through the
10.3 compliance and feedback portal under subdivision 2, paragraph (e). The unit shall provide
10.4 regular reports of the nonidentifying compliance and feedback portal summary data to the
10.5 African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council to identify child welfare
10.6 trends and patterns to assist with developing policy and practice recommendations to support
10.7 eliminating disparity and disproportionality for African American children.

10.8 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.001, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

10.9 Subd. 2. **Juvenile protection proceedings.** (a) The paramount consideration in all
10.10 juvenile protection proceedings is the health, safety, and best interests of the child. In
10.11 proceedings involving an American Indian child, as defined in section 260.755, subdivision
10.12 8, the best interests of the child must be determined consistent with sections 260.751 to
10.13 260.835 and the Indian Child Welfare Act, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to
10.14 1923.

10.15 (b) The purpose of the laws relating to juvenile protection proceedings is:

10.16 (1) to secure for each child under the jurisdiction of the court, the care and guidance,
10.17 preferably in the child's own home, as will best serve the spiritual, emotional, mental, and
10.18 physical welfare of the child;

10.19 (2) to provide judicial procedures that protect the welfare of the child;

10.20 (3) to preserve and strengthen the child's family ties whenever possible and in the child's
10.21 best interests, removing the child from the custody of parents only when the child's welfare
10.22 or safety cannot be adequately safeguarded without removal;

10.23 (4) to ensure that when removal from the child's own family is necessary and in the
10.24 child's best interests, the responsible social services agency has legal responsibility for the
10.25 child removal either:

10.26 (i) pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement between the child's parent or guardian
10.27 or the child, when the child is over age 18, and the responsible social services agency; or

10.28 (ii) by court order pursuant to section 260C.151, subdivision 6; 260C.178; 260C.201;
10.29 260C.325; or 260C.515;

10.30 (5) to ensure that, when placement is pursuant to court order, the court order removing
10.31 the child or continuing the child in foster care contains an individualized determination that

11.1 placement is in the best interests of the child that coincides with the actual removal of the
 11.2 child;

11.3 (6) to ensure that when the child is removed, the child's care and discipline is, as nearly
 11.4 as possible, equivalent to that which should have been given by the parents and is either in:

11.5 (i) the home of a noncustodial parent pursuant to section 260C.178 or 260C.201,
 11.6 subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1);

11.7 (ii) the home of a relative pursuant to emergency placement by the responsible social
 11.8 services agency under chapter 245A; or

11.9 (iii) foster care licensed under chapter 245A; and

11.10 (7) to ensure appropriate permanency planning for children in foster care including:

11.11 (i) unless reunification is not required under section 260.012, developing a permanency
 11.12 plan for the child that includes a primary plan for reunification with the child's parent or
 11.13 guardian and a secondary plan for an alternative, legally permanent home for the child in
 11.14 the event reunification cannot be achieved in a timely manner;

11.15 (ii) identifying, locating, and assessing both parents of the child as soon as possible and
 11.16 offering reunification services to both parents of the child as required under sections 260.012
 11.17 and 260C.219;

11.18 (iii) inquiring about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to
 11.19 section 260.761, and their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision
 11.20 10;

11.21 ~~(iii)~~ (iv) identifying, locating, and notifying relatives of both parents of the child according
 11.22 to section 260C.221;

11.23 ~~(iv)~~ (v) making a placement with a family that will commit to being the legally permanent
 11.24 home for the child in the event reunification cannot occur at the earliest possible time while
 11.25 at the same time actively supporting the reunification plan; and

11.26 ~~(v)~~ (vi) returning the child home with supports and services, as soon as return is safe for
 11.27 the child, or when safe return cannot be timely achieved, moving to finalize another legally
 11.28 permanent home for the child.

11.29 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.007, subdivision 19, is amended to read:

11.30 Subd. 19. **Habitual truant.** "Habitual truant" means a child ~~under the age of 17~~ who is
 11.31 at least 12 years old and less than 18 years old who is absent from attendance at school

12.1 without lawful excuse ~~for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary~~
12.2 ~~school or~~ for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is
12.3 in middle school, junior high school, or high school or a child who is 17 years of age who
12.4 is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on
12.5 seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school under
12.6 section 120A.22, subdivision 8. Pursuant to section 260C.163, subdivision 11, habitual
12.7 truant also means a child under age 12 who has been absent from school for seven school
12.8 days without lawful excuse, based on a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the
12.9 child's absence is not due to the failure of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to comply
12.10 with compulsory instruction laws.

12.11 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.141, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

12.12 Subdivision 1. **Who may file; required form.** (a) Any reputable person, including but
12.13 not limited to any agent of the commissioner of children, youth, and families, having
12.14 knowledge of a child in this state or of a child who is a resident of this state, who appears
12.15 to be in need of protection or services or neglected and in foster care, may petition the
12.16 juvenile court in the manner provided in this section.

12.17 (b) A petition for a child in need of protection filed by an individual who is not a county
12.18 attorney or an agent of the commissioner of children, youth, and families shall be filed on
12.19 a form developed by the state court administrator and provided to court administrators.
12.20 Copies of the form may be obtained from the court administrator in each county. The court
12.21 administrator shall review the petition before it is filed to determine that it is completed.
12.22 The court administrator may reject the petition if it does not indicate that the petitioner has
12.23 contacted the responsible social services agency.

12.24 An individual may file a petition under this subdivision without seeking internal review
12.25 of the responsible social services agency's decision. The court shall determine whether there
12.26 is probable cause to believe that a need for protection or services exists before the matter
12.27 is set for hearing. If the matter is set for hearing, the court administrator shall notify the
12.28 responsible social services agency by sending notice to the county attorney.

12.29 The petition must contain:

12.30 (1) a statement of facts that would establish, if proven, that there is a need for protection
12.31 or services for the child named in the petition;

13.1 (2) a statement that petitioner has reported the circumstances underlying the petition to
 13.2 the responsible social services agency, and protection or services were not provided to the
 13.3 child;

13.4 (3) a statement whether there are existing juvenile or family court custody orders or
 13.5 pending proceedings in juvenile or family court concerning the child; ~~and~~

13.6 (4) a statement of the relationship of the petitioner to the child and any other parties;
 13.7 and

13.8 (5) a statement whether the petitioner has inquired of the parent or parents of the child,
 13.9 the child, and relatives about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant
 13.10 to section 260.761 and their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63,
 13.11 subdivision 10.

13.12 The court may not allow a petition to proceed under this paragraph if it appears that the
 13.13 sole purpose of the petition is to modify custody between the parents.

13.14 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.150, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

13.15 Subd. 3. **Identifying parents of child; diligent efforts; data.** (a) The responsible social
 13.16 services agency shall make diligent efforts to inquire about the child's heritage, including
 13.17 the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and their race, culture, and ethnicity
 13.18 pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10, and to identify and locate both parents of any
 13.19 child who is the subject of proceedings under this chapter. Diligent efforts include:

13.20 (1) asking the custodial or known parent to identify any nonresident parent of the child
 13.21 and provide information that can be used to verify the nonresident parent's identity including
 13.22 the dates and locations of marriages and divorces; dates and locations of any legal
 13.23 proceedings regarding paternity; date and place of the child's birth; nonresident parent's full
 13.24 legal name; nonresident parent's date of birth, or if the nonresident parent's date of birth is
 13.25 unknown, an approximate age; the nonresident parent's Social Security number; the
 13.26 nonresident parent's whereabouts including last known whereabouts; and the whereabouts
 13.27 of relatives of the nonresident parent. For purposes of this subdivision, "nonresident parent"
 13.28 means a parent who does not reside in the same household as the child or did not reside in
 13.29 the same household as the child at the time the child was removed when the child is in foster
 13.30 care;

13.31 (2) obtaining information that will identify and locate the nonresident parent from the
 13.32 county and state of Minnesota child support enforcement information system;

14.1 (3) requesting a search of the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry 30 days after the
14.2 child's birth; and

14.3 (4) using any other reasonable means to identify and locate the nonresident parent.

14.4 (b) The agency may disclose data which is otherwise private under section 13.46 or
14.5 chapter 260E in order to carry out its duties under this subdivision.

14.6 (c) Upon the filing of a petition alleging the child to be in need of protection or services,
14.7 the responsible social services agency may contact a putative father who registered with
14.8 the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry more than 30 days after the child's birth. The
14.9 social service agency may consider a putative father for the day-to-day care of the child
14.10 under section 260C.219 if the putative father cooperates with genetic testing and there is a
14.11 positive test result under section 257.62, subdivision 5. Nothing in this paragraph:

14.12 (1) relieves a putative father who registered with the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption
14.13 Registry more than 30 days after the child's birth of the duty to cooperate with paternity
14.14 establishment proceedings under section 260C.219;

14.15 (2) gives a putative father who registered with the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry
14.16 more than 30 days after the child's birth the right to notice under section 260C.151 unless
14.17 the putative father is entitled to notice under sections 259.24 and 259.49, subdivision 1,
14.18 paragraph (a) or (b), clauses (1) to (7); or

14.19 (3) establishes a right to assert an interest in the child in a termination of parental rights
14.20 proceeding contrary to section 259.52, subdivision 6, unless the putative father is entitled
14.21 to notice under sections 259.24 and 259.49, subdivision 1, paragraph (a) or (b), clauses (1)
14.22 to (7).

14.23 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.178, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

14.24 Subdivision 1. **Hearing and release requirements.** (a) If a child was taken into custody
14.25 under section 260C.175, subdivision 1, clause (1) or (2), item (ii), the court shall hold a
14.26 hearing within 72 hours of the time that the child was taken into custody, excluding
14.27 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, to determine whether the child should continue to be in
14.28 custody.

14.29 (b) Unless there is reason to believe that the child would endanger self or others or not
14.30 return for a court hearing, or that the child's health or welfare would be immediately
14.31 endangered, the child shall be released to the custody of a parent, guardian, custodian, or
14.32 other suitable person, subject to reasonable conditions of release including, but not limited

15.1 to, a requirement that the child undergo a chemical use assessment as provided in section
15.2 260C.157, subdivision 1.

15.3 (c) If the court determines that there is reason to believe that the child would endanger
15.4 self or others or not return for a court hearing, or that the child's health or welfare would be
15.5 immediately endangered if returned to the care of the parent or guardian who has custody
15.6 and from whom the child was removed, the court shall order the child:

15.7 (1) into the care of the child's noncustodial parent and order the noncustodial parent to
15.8 comply with any conditions that the court determines appropriate to ensure the safety and
15.9 care of the child, including requiring the noncustodial parent to cooperate with paternity
15.10 establishment proceedings if the noncustodial parent has not been adjudicated the child's
15.11 father; or

15.12 (2) into foster care as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 18, under the legal
15.13 responsibility of the responsible social services agency or responsible probation or corrections
15.14 agency for the purposes of protective care as that term is used in the juvenile court rules.
15.15 The court shall not give the responsible social services legal custody and order a trial home
15.16 visit at any time prior to adjudication and disposition under section 260C.201, subdivision
15.17 1, paragraph (a), clause (3), but may order the child returned to the care of the parent or
15.18 guardian who has custody and from whom the child was removed and order the parent or
15.19 guardian to comply with any conditions the court determines to be appropriate to meet the
15.20 safety, health, and welfare of the child.

15.21 (d) In determining whether the child's health or welfare would be immediately
15.22 endangered, the court shall consider whether the child would reside with a perpetrator of
15.23 domestic child abuse.

15.24 (e) The court, before determining whether a child should be placed in or continue in
15.25 foster care under the protective care of the responsible agency, shall also make a
15.26 determination, consistent with section 260.012 as to whether reasonable efforts were made
15.27 to prevent placement or whether reasonable efforts to prevent placement are not required.
15.28 In the case of an Indian child, the court shall determine whether active efforts, according
15.29 to section 260.762 and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25,
15.30 section 1912(d), were made to prevent placement. The court shall enter a finding that the
15.31 responsible social services agency has made reasonable efforts to prevent placement when
15.32 the agency establishes either:

16.1 (1) that the agency has actually provided services or made efforts in an attempt to prevent
16.2 the child's removal but that such services or efforts have not proven sufficient to permit the
16.3 child to safely remain in the home; or

16.4 (2) that there are no services or other efforts that could be made at the time of the hearing
16.5 that could safely permit the child to remain home or to return home. The court shall not
16.6 make a reasonable efforts determination under this clause unless the court is satisfied that
16.7 the agency has sufficiently demonstrated to the court that there were no services or other
16.8 efforts that the agency was able to provide at the time of the hearing enabling the child to
16.9 safely remain home or to safely return home. When reasonable efforts to prevent placement
16.10 are required and there are services or other efforts that could be ordered that would permit
16.11 the child to safely return home, the court shall order the child returned to the care of the
16.12 parent or guardian and the services or efforts put in place to ensure the child's safety. When
16.13 the court makes a prima facie determination that one of the circumstances under paragraph
16.14 (g) exists, the court shall determine that reasonable efforts to prevent placement and to
16.15 return the child to the care of the parent or guardian are not required.

16.16 (f) If the court finds the social services agency's preventive or reunification efforts have
16.17 not been reasonable but further preventive or reunification efforts could not permit the child
16.18 to safely remain at home, the court may nevertheless authorize or continue the removal of
16.19 the child.

16.20 (g) The court may not order or continue the foster care placement of the child unless the
16.21 court makes explicit, individualized findings that continued custody of the child by the
16.22 parent or guardian would be contrary to the welfare of the child and that placement is in the
16.23 best interest of the child.

16.24 (h) At the emergency removal hearing, or at any time during the course of the proceeding,
16.25 and upon notice and request of the county attorney, the court shall determine whether a
16.26 petition has been filed stating a prima facie case that:

16.27 (1) the parent has subjected a child to egregious harm as defined in section 260C.007,
16.28 subdivision 14;

16.29 (2) the parental rights of the parent to another child have been involuntarily terminated;

16.30 (3) the child is an abandoned infant under section 260C.301, subdivision 2, paragraph
16.31 (a), clause (2);

16.32 (4) the parents' custodial rights to another child have been involuntarily transferred to a
16.33 relative under a juvenile protection proceeding or a similar process of another jurisdiction;

17.1 (5) the parent has committed sexual abuse as defined in section 260E.03, against the
17.2 child or another child of the parent;

17.3 (6) the parent has committed an offense that requires registration as a predatory offender
17.4 under section 243.166, subdivision 1b, paragraph (a) or (b); or

17.5 (7) the provision of services or further services for the purpose of reunification is futile
17.6 and therefore unreasonable.

17.7 (i) When a petition to terminate parental rights is required under section 260C.301,
17.8 subdivision 4, or 260C.503, subdivision 2, but the county attorney has determined not to
17.9 proceed with a termination of parental rights petition, and has instead filed a petition to
17.10 transfer permanent legal and physical custody to a relative under section 260C.507, the
17.11 court shall schedule a permanency hearing within 30 days of the filing of the petition.

17.12 (j) If the county attorney has filed a petition under section 260C.307, the court shall
17.13 schedule a trial under section 260C.163 within 90 days of the filing of the petition except
17.14 when the county attorney determines that the criminal case shall proceed to trial first under
17.15 section 260C.503, subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

17.16 (k) If the court determines the child should be ordered into foster care ~~and~~, the court
17.17 shall inquire about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section
17.18 260.761; their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10; and
17.19 the responsible social services agency's initial relative search efforts. If the child's parent
17.20 refuses to give information to the responsible social services agency regarding the child's
17.21 father or relatives of the child, the court may order the parent to disclose the names, addresses,
17.22 telephone numbers, and other identifying information to the responsible social services
17.23 agency for the purpose of complying with sections 260C.150, 260C.151, 260C.212,
17.24 260C.215, 260C.219, and 260C.221.

17.25 (l) If a child ordered into foster care has siblings, whether full, half, or step, who are
17.26 also ordered into foster care, the court shall inquire of the responsible social services agency
17.27 of the efforts to place the children together as required by section 260C.212, subdivision 2,
17.28 paragraph (d), if placement together is in each child's best interests, unless a child is in
17.29 placement for treatment or a child is placed with a previously noncustodial parent who is
17.30 not a parent to all siblings. If the children are not placed together at the time of the hearing,
17.31 the court shall inquire at each subsequent hearing of the agency's reasonable efforts to place
17.32 the siblings together, as required under section 260.012. If any sibling is not placed with
17.33 another sibling or siblings, the agency must develop a plan to facilitate visitation or ongoing

18.1 contact among the siblings as required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, unless it is
18.2 contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings to do so.

18.3 (m) When the court has ordered the child into the care of a noncustodial parent or in
18.4 foster care, the court may order a chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation,
18.5 medical examination, and parenting assessment for the parent as necessary to support the
18.6 development of a plan for reunification required under subdivision 7 and section 260C.212,
18.7 subdivision 1, or the child protective services plan under section 260E.26, and Minnesota
18.8 Rules, part 9560.0228.

18.9 (n) When the court has ordered an Indian child into an emergency child placement, the
18.10 Indian child shall be placed according to the placement preferences in the Minnesota Indian
18.11 Family Preservation Act, section 260.773.

18.12 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.178, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

18.13 Subd. 7. **Case plan.** (a) When the court has ordered the child into the care of a parent
18.14 under subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (1), the child protective services plan under section
18.15 260E.26 must be filed within 30 days of the filing of the juvenile protection petition under
18.16 section 260C.141, subdivision 1.

18.17 (b) When the court orders the child into foster care under subdivision 1, paragraph (c),
18.18 clause (2), and not into the care of a parent, an out-of-home placement plan summary required
18.19 under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, must be filed with the court within 30 days of the
18.20 filing of a juvenile protection petition under section 260C.141, subdivision 1, when the
18.21 court orders emergency removal of the child under this section, or filed with the petition if
18.22 the petition is a review of a voluntary placement under section 260C.141, subdivision 2.
18.23 An out-of-home placement plan shall be prepared and filed with the court within 60 days
18.24 after any child is placed in foster care under section 260C.212, subdivision 1.

18.25 (c) Upon the filing of the child protective services plan under section 260E.26 or
18.26 out-of-home placement plan that has been developed jointly with the parent and in
18.27 consultation with others as required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, the court may
18.28 approve implementation of the plan by the responsible social services agency based on the
18.29 allegations contained in the petition and any evaluations, examinations, or assessments
18.30 conducted under subdivision 1, paragraph (m). The court shall send written notice of the
18.31 approval of the child protective services plan or out-of-home placement plan to all parties
18.32 and the county attorney or may state such approval on the record at a hearing. A parent may
18.33 agree to comply with the terms of the plan filed with the court.

19.1 (d) The responsible social services agency shall make reasonable efforts to engage both
19.2 parents of the child in case planning. The responsible social services agency shall report
19.3 the results of its efforts to engage the child's parents in the child protective services plan or
19.4 out-of-home placement plan filed with the court. The agency shall notify the court of the
19.5 services it will provide or efforts it will attempt under the plan notwithstanding the parent's
19.6 refusal to cooperate or disagreement with the services. The parent may ask the court to
19.7 modify the plan to require different or additional services requested by the parent, but which
19.8 the agency refused to provide. The court may approve the plan as presented by the agency
19.9 or may modify the plan to require services requested by the parent. The court's approval
19.10 must be based on the content of the petition.

19.11 (e) Unless the parent agrees to comply with the terms of the child protective services
19.12 plan or out-of-home placement plan, the court may not order a parent to comply with the
19.13 provisions of the plan until the court finds the child is in need of protection or services and
19.14 orders disposition under section 260C.201, subdivision 1. However, the court may find that
19.15 the responsible social services agency has made reasonable efforts for reunification if the
19.16 agency makes efforts to implement the terms of the child protective services plan or
19.17 out-of-home placement plan approved under this section.

19.18 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.201, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

19.19 Subdivision 1. **Dispositions.** (a) If the court finds that the child is in need of protection
19.20 or services or neglected and in foster care, the court shall enter an order making any of the
19.21 following dispositions of the case:

19.22 (1) place the child under the protective supervision of the responsible social services
19.23 agency or child-placing agency in the home of a parent of the child under conditions
19.24 prescribed by the court directed to the correction of the child's need for protection or services:

19.25 (i) the court may order the child into the home of a parent who does not otherwise have
19.26 legal custody of the child, however, an order under this section does not confer legal custody
19.27 on that parent;

19.28 (ii) if the court orders the child into the home of a father who is not adjudicated, the
19.29 father must cooperate with paternity establishment proceedings regarding the child in the
19.30 appropriate jurisdiction as one of the conditions prescribed by the court for the child to
19.31 continue in the father's home; ~~and~~

20.1 (iii) the court may order the child into the home of a noncustodial parent with conditions
20.2 and may also order both the noncustodial and the custodial parent to comply with the
20.3 requirements of a case plan under subdivision 2; or

20.4 (2) transfer legal custody to one of the following:

20.5 (i) a child-placing agency; or

20.6 (ii) the responsible social services agency. In making a foster care placement of a child
20.7 whose custody has been transferred under this subdivision, the court shall inquire about the
20.8 child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and their
20.9 race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10, and the agency shall
20.10 make an individualized determination of how the placement is in the child's best interests
20.11 using the placement consideration order for relatives and the best interest factors in section
20.12 260C.212, subdivision 2, and may include a child colocated with a parent in a licensed
20.13 residential family-based substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190;
20.14 ~~or~~

20.15 (3) order a trial home visit without modifying the transfer of legal custody to the
20.16 responsible social services agency under clause (2). Trial home visit means the child is
20.17 returned to the care of the parent or guardian from whom the child was removed for a period
20.18 not to exceed six months. During the period of the trial home visit, the responsible social
20.19 services agency:

20.20 (i) shall continue to have legal custody of the child, which means that the agency may
20.21 see the child in the parent's home, at school, in a child care facility, or other setting as the
20.22 agency deems necessary and appropriate;

20.23 (ii) shall continue to have the ability to access information under section 260C.208;

20.24 (iii) shall continue to provide appropriate services to both the parent and the child during
20.25 the period of the trial home visit;

20.26 (iv) without previous court order or authorization, may terminate the trial home visit in
20.27 order to protect the child's health, safety, or welfare and may remove the child to foster care;

20.28 (v) shall advise the court and parties within three days of the termination of the trial
20.29 home visit when a visit is terminated by the responsible social services agency without a
20.30 court order; and

20.31 (vi) shall prepare a report for the court when the trial home visit is terminated whether
20.32 by the agency or court order that describes the child's circumstances during the trial home
20.33 visit and recommends appropriate orders, if any, for the court to enter to provide for the

21.1 child's safety and stability. In the event a trial home visit is terminated by the agency by
21.2 removing the child to foster care without prior court order or authorization, the court shall
21.3 conduct a hearing within ten days of receiving notice of the termination of the trial home
21.4 visit by the agency and shall order disposition under this subdivision or commence
21.5 permanency proceedings under sections 260C.503 to 260C.515. The time period for the
21.6 hearing may be extended by the court for good cause shown and if it is in the best interests
21.7 of the child as long as the total time the child spends in foster care without a permanency
21.8 hearing does not exceed 12 months;

21.9 (4) if the child has been adjudicated as a child in need of protection or services because
21.10 the child is in need of special services or care to treat or ameliorate a physical or mental
21.11 disability or emotional disturbance as defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 15, the court
21.12 may order the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to provide it. The court may order the
21.13 child's health plan company to provide mental health services to the child. Section 62Q.535
21.14 applies to an order for mental health services directed to the child's health plan company.
21.15 If the health plan, parent, guardian, or custodian fails or is unable to provide this treatment
21.16 or care, the court may order it provided. Absent specific written findings by the court that
21.17 the child's disability is the result of abuse or neglect by the child's parent or guardian, the
21.18 court shall not transfer legal custody of the child for the purpose of obtaining special
21.19 treatment or care solely because the parent is unable to provide the treatment or care. If the
21.20 court's order for mental health treatment is based on a diagnosis made by a treatment
21.21 professional, the court may order that the diagnosing professional not provide the treatment
21.22 to the child if it finds that such an order is in the child's best interests; or

21.23 (5) if the court believes that the child has sufficient maturity and judgment and that it is
21.24 in the best interests of the child, the court may order a child 16 years old or older to be
21.25 allowed to live independently, either alone or with others as approved by the court under
21.26 supervision the court considers appropriate, if the county board, after consultation with the
21.27 court, has specifically authorized this dispositional alternative for a child.

21.28 (b) If the child was adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child is a
21.29 runaway or habitual truant, the court may order any of the following dispositions in addition
21.30 to or as alternatives to the dispositions authorized under paragraph (a):

21.31 (1) counsel the child or the child's parents, guardian, or custodian;

21.32 (2) place the child under the supervision of a probation officer or other suitable person
21.33 in the child's own home under conditions prescribed by the court, including reasonable rules

22.1 for the child's conduct and the conduct of the parents, guardian, or custodian, designed for
22.2 the physical, mental, and moral well-being and behavior of the child;

22.3 (3) subject to the court's supervision, transfer legal custody of the child to one of the
22.4 following:

22.5 (i) a reputable person of good moral character. No person may receive custody of two
22.6 or more unrelated children unless licensed to operate a residential program under sections
22.7 245A.01 to 245A.16; or

22.8 (ii) a county probation officer for placement in a group foster home established under
22.9 the direction of the juvenile court and licensed pursuant to section 241.021;

22.10 (4) require the child to pay a fine of up to \$100. The court shall order payment of the
22.11 fine in a manner that will not impose undue financial hardship upon the child;

22.12 (5) require the child to participate in a community service project;

22.13 (6) order the child to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation and, if warranted by
22.14 the evaluation, order participation by the child in a drug awareness program or an inpatient
22.15 or outpatient chemical dependency treatment program;

22.16 (7) if the court believes that it is in the best interests of the child or of public safety that
22.17 the child's driver's license or instruction permit be canceled, the court may order the
22.18 commissioner of public safety to cancel the child's license or permit for any period up to
22.19 the child's 18th birthday. If the child does not have a driver's license or permit, the court
22.20 may order a denial of driving privileges for any period up to the child's 18th birthday. The
22.21 court shall forward an order issued under this clause to the commissioner, who shall cancel
22.22 the license or permit or deny driving privileges without a hearing for the period specified
22.23 by the court. At any time before the expiration of the period of cancellation or denial, the
22.24 court may, for good cause, order the commissioner of public safety to allow the child to
22.25 apply for a license or permit, and the commissioner shall so authorize;

22.26 (8) order that the child's parent or legal guardian deliver the child to school at the
22.27 beginning of each school day for a period of time specified by the court; or

22.28 (9) require the child to perform any other activities or participate in any other treatment
22.29 programs deemed appropriate by the court.

22.30 To the extent practicable, the court shall enter a disposition order the same day it makes
22.31 a finding that a child is in need of protection or services or neglected and in foster care, but
22.32 in no event more than 15 days after the finding unless the court finds that the best interests
22.33 of the child will be served by granting a delay. If the child was under eight years of age at

23.1 the time the petition was filed, the disposition order must be entered within ten days of the
23.2 finding and the court may not grant a delay unless good cause is shown and the court finds
23.3 the best interests of the child will be served by the delay.

23.4 (c) If a child who is 14 years of age or older is adjudicated in need of protection or
23.5 services because the child is a habitual truant and truancy procedures involving the child
23.6 were previously dealt with by a school attendance review board or county attorney mediation
23.7 program under section 260A.06 or 260A.07, the court shall order a cancellation or denial
23.8 of driving privileges under paragraph (b), clause (7), for any period up to the child's 18th
23.9 birthday.

23.10 (d) In the case of a child adjudicated in need of protection or services because the child
23.11 has committed domestic abuse and been ordered excluded from the child's parent's home,
23.12 the court shall dismiss jurisdiction if the court, at any time, finds the parent is able or willing
23.13 to provide an alternative safe living arrangement for the child as defined in paragraph (f).

23.14 (e) When a parent has complied with a case plan ordered under subdivision 6 and the
23.15 child is in the care of the parent, the court may order the responsible social services agency
23.16 to monitor the parent's continued ability to maintain the child safely in the home under such
23.17 terms and conditions as the court determines appropriate under the circumstances.

23.18 (f) For the purposes of this subdivision, "alternative safe living arrangement" means a
23.19 living arrangement for a child proposed by a petitioning parent or guardian if a court excludes
23.20 the minor from the parent's or guardian's home that is separate from the victim of domestic
23.21 abuse and safe for the child respondent. A living arrangement proposed by a petitioning
23.22 parent or guardian is presumed to be an alternative safe living arrangement absent information
23.23 to the contrary presented to the court. In evaluating any proposed living arrangement, the
23.24 court shall consider whether the arrangement provides the child with necessary food, clothing,
23.25 shelter, and education in a safe environment. Any proposed living arrangement that would
23.26 place the child in the care of an adult who has been physically or sexually violent is presumed
23.27 unsafe.

23.28 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.201, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

23.29 Subd. 2. **Written findings.** (a) Any order for a disposition authorized under this section
23.30 shall contain written findings of fact to support the disposition and case plan ordered and
23.31 shall also set forth in writing the following information:

23.32 (1) why the best interests and safety of the child are served by the disposition and case
23.33 plan ordered;

24.1 (2) what alternative dispositions or services under the case plan were considered by the
24.2 court and why such dispositions or services were not appropriate in the instant case;

24.3 (3) when legal custody of the child is transferred, the appropriateness of the particular
24.4 placement made or to be made by the placing agency using the relative and sibling placement
24.5 considerations and best interest factors in section 260C.212, subdivision 2, or the
24.6 appropriateness of a child colocated with a parent in a licensed residential family-based
24.7 substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190;

24.8 (4) whether reasonable efforts to finalize the permanent plan for the child consistent
24.9 with section 260.012 were made including reasonable efforts:

24.10 (i) to prevent the child's placement and to reunify the child with the parent or guardian
24.11 from whom the child was removed at the earliest time consistent with the child's safety.
24.12 The court's findings must include a brief description of what preventive and reunification
24.13 efforts were made and why further efforts could not have prevented or eliminated the
24.14 necessity of removal or that reasonable efforts were not required under section 260.012 or
24.15 260C.178, subdivision 1;

24.16 (ii) to identify and locate any noncustodial or nonresident parent of the child and to
24.17 assess such parent's ability to provide day-to-day care of the child, and, where appropriate,
24.18 provide services necessary to enable the noncustodial or nonresident parent to safely provide
24.19 day-to-day care of the child as required under section 260C.219, unless such services are
24.20 not required under section 260.012 or 260C.178, subdivision 1. The court's findings must
24.21 include a description of the agency's efforts to:

24.22 (A) identify and locate the child's noncustodial or nonresident parent;

24.23 (B) assess the noncustodial or nonresident parent's ability to provide day-to-day care of
24.24 the child; and

24.25 (C) if appropriate, provide services necessary to enable the noncustodial or nonresident
24.26 parent to safely provide the child's day-to-day care, including efforts to engage the
24.27 noncustodial or nonresident parent in assuming care and responsibility of the child;

24.28 (iii) to inquire about the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to
24.29 section 260.761 and their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision
24.30 10, and make the diligent search for relatives and provide the notices required under section
24.31 260C.221; a finding made pursuant to a hearing under section 260C.202 that the agency
24.32 has made diligent efforts to conduct a relative search and has appropriately engaged relatives
24.33 who responded to the notice under section 260C.221 and other relatives, who came to the

25.1 attention of the agency after notice under section 260C.221 was sent, in placement and case
25.2 planning decisions fulfills the requirement of this item;

25.3 (iv) to identify and make a foster care placement of the child, considering the order in
25.4 section 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), in the home of an unlicensed relative,
25.5 according to the requirements of section 142B.06, a licensed relative, or other licensed foster
25.6 care provider, who will commit to being the permanent legal parent or custodian for the
25.7 child in the event reunification cannot occur, but who will actively support the reunification
25.8 plan for the child. If the court finds that the agency has not appropriately considered relatives
25.9 for placement of the child, the court shall order the agency to comply with section 260C.212,
25.10 subdivision 2, paragraph (a). The court may order the agency to continue considering
25.11 relatives for placement of the child regardless of the child's current placement setting; and

25.12 (v) to place siblings together in the same home or to ensure visitation is occurring when
25.13 siblings are separated in foster care placement and visitation is in the siblings' best interests
25.14 under section 260C.212, subdivision 2, paragraph (d); and

25.15 (5) if the child has been adjudicated as a child in need of protection or services because
25.16 the child is in need of special services or care to treat or ameliorate a mental disability or
25.17 emotional disturbance as defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 15, the written findings
25.18 shall also set forth:

25.19 (i) whether the child has mental health needs that must be addressed by the case plan;

25.20 (ii) what consideration was given to the diagnostic and functional assessments performed
25.21 by the child's mental health professional and to health and mental health care professionals'
25.22 treatment recommendations;

25.23 (iii) what consideration was given to the requests or preferences of the child's parent or
25.24 guardian with regard to the child's interventions, services, or treatment; and

25.25 (iv) what consideration was given to the cultural appropriateness of the child's treatment
25.26 or services.

25.27 (b) If the court finds that the social services agency's preventive or reunification efforts
25.28 have not been reasonable but that further preventive or reunification efforts could not permit
25.29 the child to safely remain at home, the court may nevertheless authorize or continue the
25.30 removal of the child.

25.31 (c) If the child has been identified by the responsible social services agency as the subject
25.32 of concurrent permanency planning, the court shall review the reasonable efforts of the
25.33 agency to develop a permanency plan for the child that includes a primary plan that is for

26.1 reunification with the child's parent or guardian and a secondary plan that is for an alternative,
26.2 legally permanent home for the child in the event reunification cannot be achieved in a
26.3 timely manner.

26.4 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

26.5 Subd. 2. **Court review for a child placed in foster care.** (a) If the court orders a child
26.6 placed in foster care, the court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and the child's
26.7 placement at least every 90 days as required in juvenile court rules to determine whether
26.8 continued out-of-home placement is necessary and appropriate or whether the child should
26.9 be returned home.

26.10 (b) This review is not required if the court has returned the child home, ordered the child
26.11 permanently placed away from the parent under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521, or
26.12 terminated rights under section 260C.301. Court review for a child permanently placed
26.13 away from a parent, including where the child is under guardianship of the commissioner,
26.14 is governed by section 260C.607.

26.15 (c) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined
26.16 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit
26.17 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

26.18 (d) No later than three months after the child's placement in foster care, the court shall
26.19 review agency efforts to search for and notify relatives pursuant to section 260C.221, and
26.20 order that the agency's efforts begin immediately, or continue, if the agency has failed to
26.21 perform, or has not adequately performed, the duties under that section. The court must
26.22 order the agency to continue to appropriately engage relatives who responded to the notice
26.23 under section 260C.221 in placement and case planning decisions and to consider relatives
26.24 for foster care placement consistent with section 260C.221. Notwithstanding a court's finding
26.25 that the agency has made reasonable efforts to search for and notify relatives under section
26.26 260C.221, the court may order the agency to continue making reasonable efforts to search
26.27 for, notify, engage, and consider relatives who came to the agency's attention after sending
26.28 the initial notice under section 260C.221.

26.29 (e) The court shall review the out-of-home placement plan and may modify the plan as
26.30 provided under section 260C.201, subdivisions 6 and 7.

26.31 (f) When the court transfers the custody of a child to a responsible social services agency
26.32 resulting in foster care or protective supervision with a noncustodial parent under subdivision

27.1 1, the court shall notify the parents of the provisions of sections 260C.204 and 260C.503
27.2 to 260C.521, as required under juvenile court rules.

27.3 ~~(g) When a child remains in or returns to foster care pursuant to section 260C.451 and~~
27.4 ~~the court has jurisdiction pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), the~~
27.5 ~~court shall at least annually conduct the review required under section 260C.203.~~

27.6 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, is amended by adding a subdivision
27.7 to read:

27.8 Subd. 3. Court review prior to the 18th birthday of a child in foster care. (a) The
27.9 court must conduct a review during the 90-day period prior to the 18th birthday of a child
27.10 in foster care.

27.11 (b) The responsible social services agency must file a written report with the court
27.12 containing or attaching the following:

27.13 (1) the child's name, date of birth, race, gender, and current address;

27.14 (2) whether the child is eligible for extended foster care and if not, the reason or reasons
27.15 why the child is not eligible;

27.16 (3) a written summary describing how the child was involved in creating the child's plan
27.17 for after their 18th birthday;

27.18 (4) the date the required extended foster care eligibility notice in section 260C.451,
27.19 subdivision 1, was provided and the child's plan after the child's 18th birthday;

27.20 (5) the child's most recent independent living plan required under section 260C.212,
27.21 subdivision 1;

27.22 (6) if the agency's recommendation is to extend jurisdiction up to age 19 under section
27.23 260C.193, why the extended jurisdiction is in the child's best interest;

27.24 (7) if the agency's recommendation is to reunify the child with their parent or legal
27.25 guardian, why reunification is in the child's best interest;

27.26 (8) if the agency plans to transition the child into adult services on or after the child's
27.27 18th birthday, a summary of the transition plan as required in section 260C.452 and how
27.28 this plan is in the child's best interest; and

27.29 (9) if the child's plan is to leave foster care at age 18 and not continue in extended foster
27.30 care, a copy of their 180-day transition plan required in section 260C.452 and the reasons
27.31 the child is not continuing in extended foster care.

28.1 (c) The agency must inform the child and parties to the proceeding of the reporting and
28.2 court review requirements of this subdivision and their right to request a hearing. The child
28.3 or a party to the proceeding may request a hearing if they believe the agency did not make
28.4 reasonable efforts under this subdivision.

28.5 (d) Upon receiving the report, the court must hold a hearing when a party to the
28.6 proceeding or the child requests a hearing. In all other circumstances, the court has the
28.7 discretion to hold a hearing or issue an order without a hearing.

28.8 (e) The court must issue an order with findings including but not limited to the following:

28.9 (1) whether the responsible social services agency provided the notice to the child about
28.10 extended foster care as required in section 260C.451;

28.11 (2) whether the responsible social services agency engaged with the child and
28.12 appropriately planned with the child to transition to adulthood; and

28.13 (3) if the child has decided to not continue in the extended foster care program at age
28.14 18, whether the responsible social services agency informed the child that they can reenter
28.15 extended foster care up to age 21 or that the child is not eligible to reenter and why.

28.16 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.202, is amended by adding a subdivision
28.17 to read:

28.18 Subd. 4. **Court reviews for a child over age 18 in foster care.** When a child remains
28.19 in or returns to foster care pursuant to section 260C.451 and the court has jurisdiction
28.20 pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), the court must at least annually
28.21 conduct the review required under section 260C.203.

28.22 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.204, is amended to read:

28.23 **260C.204 PERMANENCY PROGRESS REVIEW FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER**
28.24 **CARE FOR SIX MONTHS.**

28.25 (a) When a child continues in placement out of the home of the parent or guardian from
28.26 whom the child was removed, no later than six months after the child's placement the court
28.27 shall conduct a permanency progress hearing to review:

28.28 (1) the progress of the case, the parent's progress on the case plan or out-of-home
28.29 placement plan, whichever is applicable;

28.30 (2) the agency's reasonable, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts for
28.31 reunification and its provision of services;

29.1 (3) the agency's reasonable efforts to finalize the permanent plan for the child under
29.2 section 260.012, paragraph (e), and to make a placement as required under section 260C.212,
29.3 subdivision 2, in a home that will commit to being the legally permanent family for the
29.4 child in the event the child cannot return home according to the timelines in this section;
29.5 and

29.6 (4) in the case of an Indian child, active efforts to prevent the breakup of the Indian
29.7 family and to make a placement according to the placement preferences under United States
29.8 Code, title 25, chapter 21, section 1915.

29.9 (b) When a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment program setting as defined
29.10 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, the responsible social services agency must submit
29.11 evidence to the court as specified in section 260C.712.

29.12 (c) The court shall ensure that notice of the hearing is sent to any relative who:

29.13 (1) responded to the agency's notice provided under section 260C.221, indicating an
29.14 interest in participating in planning for the child or being a permanency resource for the
29.15 child and who has kept the court apprised of the relative's address; or

29.16 (2) asked to be notified of court proceedings regarding the child as is permitted in section
29.17 260C.152, subdivision 5.

29.18 (d)(1) If the parent or guardian has maintained contact with the child and is complying
29.19 with the court-ordered out-of-home placement plan, and if the child would benefit from
29.20 reunification with the parent, the court may either:

29.21 (i) return the child home, if the conditions that led to the out-of-home placement have
29.22 been sufficiently mitigated that it is safe and in the child's best interests to return home; or

29.23 (ii) continue the matter up to a total of six additional months. If the child has not returned
29.24 home by the end of the additional six months, the court must conduct a hearing according
29.25 to sections 260C.503 to 260C.521.

29.26 (2) If the court determines that the parent or guardian is not complying, is not making
29.27 progress with or engaging with services in the out-of-home placement plan, or is not
29.28 maintaining regular contact with the child as outlined in the visitation plan required as part
29.29 of the out-of-home placement plan under section 260C.212, the court may order the
29.30 responsible social services agency:

29.31 (i) to develop a plan for legally permanent placement of the child away from the parent;

30.1 (ii) to consider, identify, recruit, and support one or more permanency resources from
30.2 the child's relatives and foster parent, consistent with clause (3) and section 260C.212,
30.3 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), to be the legally permanent home in the event the child cannot
30.4 be returned to the parent. Any relative or the child's foster parent may ask the court to order
30.5 the agency to consider them for permanent placement of the child in the event the child
30.6 cannot be returned to the parent. A relative or foster parent who wants to be considered
30.7 under this item shall cooperate with the background study required under section 245C.08,
30.8 if the individual has not already done so, and with the home study process required under
30.9 chapter 142B for providing child foster care and for adoption under section 259.41. The
30.10 home study referred to in this item shall be a single-home study in the form required by the
30.11 commissioner of children, youth, and families or similar study required by the individual's
30.12 state of residence when the subject of the study is not a resident of Minnesota. The court
30.13 may order the responsible social services agency to make a referral under the Interstate
30.14 Compact on the Placement of Children when necessary to obtain a home study for an
30.15 individual who wants to be considered for transfer of permanent legal and physical custody
30.16 or adoption of the child; and

30.17 (iii) to file a petition to support an order for the legally permanent placement plan.

30.18 (3) Consistent with section 260C.223, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), the responsible social
30.19 services agency must not define a foster family as the permanent home for a child until:

30.20 (i) inquiry and Tribal notice requirements under section 260.761, subdivisions 1 and 2,
30.21 are satisfied;

30.22 (ii) inquiry about the child's heritage, including their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant
30.23 to section 260.63, subdivision 10, has been completed; and

30.24 (iii) the court has determined that reasonable or active efforts toward completing the
30.25 relative search requirements in section 260C.221 have been made.

30.26 (e) Following the review under this section:

30.27 (1) if the court has either returned the child home or continued the matter up to a total
30.28 of six additional months, the agency shall continue to provide services to support the child's
30.29 return home or to make reasonable efforts to achieve reunification of the child and the parent
30.30 as ordered by the court under an approved case plan;

30.31 (2) if the court orders the agency to develop a plan for the transfer of permanent legal
30.32 and physical custody of the child to a relative, a petition supporting the plan shall be filed

31.1 in juvenile court within 30 days of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the
 31.2 petition held within 60 days of the filing of the pleadings; or

31.3 (3) if the court orders the agency to file a termination of parental rights, unless the county
 31.4 attorney can show cause why a termination of parental rights petition should not be filed,
 31.5 a petition for termination of parental rights shall be filed in juvenile court within 30 days
 31.6 of the hearing required under this section and a trial on the petition held within 60 days of
 31.7 the filing of the petition.

31.8 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.212, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

31.9 Subdivision 1. **Out-of-home placement; plan.** ~~(a) An out-of-home placement plan shall~~
 31.10 ~~be prepared within 30 days after any child is placed in foster care by court order or a~~
 31.11 ~~voluntary placement agreement between the responsible social services agency and the~~
 31.12 ~~child's parent pursuant to section 260C.227 or chapter 260D.~~

31.13 ~~(b)~~ (a) An out-of-home placement plan means a written document individualized to the
 31.14 needs of the child and the child's parents or guardians that is prepared by the responsible
 31.15 social services agency using a form developed by the commissioner. The plan must be
 31.16 completed jointly with the child's parents or guardians and in consultation with the child's
 31.17 guardian ad litem; the child's tribe, if the child is an Indian child; the child's foster parent
 31.18 or representative of the foster care facility; and, when appropriate, the child. When a child
 31.19 is age 14 or older, the child may include two other individuals on the team preparing the
 31.20 child's out-of-home placement plan. The child may select one member of the case planning
 31.21 team to be designated as the child's advisor and to advocate with respect to the application
 31.22 of the reasonable and prudent parenting standards. The responsible social services agency
 31.23 may reject an individual selected by the child if the agency has good cause to believe that
 31.24 the individual would not act in the best interest of the child. For a child in voluntary foster
 31.25 care for treatment under chapter 260D, preparation of the out-of-home placement plan shall
 31.26 additionally include the child's mental health treatment provider. For a child 18 years of
 31.27 age or older, the responsible social services agency shall involve the child and the child's
 31.28 parents as appropriate. As appropriate, the plan shall be:

31.29 (1) submitted to the court for approval under section 260C.178, subdivision 7;

31.30 (2) ordered by the court, either as presented or modified after hearing, under section
 31.31 260C.178, subdivision 7, or 260C.201, subdivision 6; and

32.1 (3) signed by the parent or parents or guardian of the child, the child's guardian ad litem,
32.2 a representative of the child's tribe, the responsible social services agency, and, if possible,
32.3 the child.

32.4 (b) Before an out-of-home placement plan is signed by the parent or parents or guardian
32.5 of the child, the responsible social services agency must provide the parent or parents or
32.6 guardian with a one- to two-page summary of the plan using a form developed by the
32.7 commissioner. The out-of-home placement plan summary must clearly summarize the plan's
32.8 contents under paragraph (d) and list the requirements and responsibilities for the parent or
32.9 parents or guardian using plain language. The summary must be updated and provided to
32.10 the parent or parents or guardian when the out-of-home placement plan is updated under
32.11 subdivision 1a.

32.12 (c) An out-of-home placement plan summary shall be prepared within 30 days after any
32.13 child is placed in foster care by court order or voluntary placement agreement between the
32.14 responsible social services agency and the child's parent pursuant to section 260C.227 or
32.15 chapter 260D. An out-of-home placement plan shall be prepared within 60 days after any
32.16 child is placed in foster care by court order or a voluntary placement agreement between
32.17 the responsible social services agency and the child's parent pursuant to section 260C.227
32.18 or chapter 260D.

32.19 ~~(e)~~ (d) The out-of-home placement plan shall be explained by the responsible social
32.20 services agency to all persons involved in the plan's implementation, including the child
32.21 who has signed the plan, and shall set forth:

32.22 (1) a description of the foster care home or facility selected, including how the
32.23 out-of-home placement plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the
32.24 least restrictive, most family-like setting available that is in close proximity to the home of
32.25 the child's parents or guardians when the case plan goal is reunification; and how the
32.26 placement is consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child according to
32.27 the factors under subdivision 2, paragraph (b);

32.28 (2) a description of the services offered and provided to prevent removal of the child
32.29 from the home;

32.30 ~~(2)~~ (3) the specific reasons for the placement of the child in foster care, and when
32.31 reunification is the plan, a description of the problems or conditions in the home of the
32.32 parent or parents that necessitated removal of the child from home and the services offered
32.33 and provided to support the changes the parent or parents must make for the child to safely
32.34 return home;

33.1 ~~(3) a description of the services offered and provided to prevent removal of the child~~
33.2 ~~from the home~~ and to reunify the family including:

33.3 (i) the specific actions to be taken by the parent or parents of the child to eliminate or
33.4 correct the problems or conditions identified in clause (2), and the time period during which
33.5 the actions are to be taken; and

33.6 (ii) the reasonable efforts, or in the case of an Indian child, active efforts to be made to
33.7 achieve a safe and stable home for the child including social and other supportive services
33.8 to be provided or offered to the parent or parents or guardian of the child, the child, and the
33.9 residential facility during the period the child is in the residential facility;

33.10 (4) a description of any services or resources that were requested by the child or the
33.11 child's parent, guardian, foster parent, or custodian since the date of the child's placement
33.12 in the residential facility, and whether those services or resources were provided and if not,
33.13 the basis for the denial of the services or resources;

33.14 (5) the visitation plan for the parent or parents or guardian, other relatives as defined in
33.15 section 260C.007, subdivision 26b or 27, and siblings of the child if the siblings are not
33.16 placed together in foster care, and whether visitation is consistent with the best interest of
33.17 the child, during the period the child is in foster care;

33.18 (6) when a child cannot return to or be in the care of either parent, documentation of
33.19 steps to finalize permanency through either:

33.20 (i) adoption as the permanency plan for the child through reasonable efforts to place the
33.21 child for adoption pursuant to section 260C.605. At a minimum, the documentation must
33.22 include consideration of whether adoption is in the best interests of the child and
33.23 child-specific recruitment efforts such as a relative search, consideration of relatives for
33.24 adoptive placement, and the use of state, regional, and national adoption exchanges to
33.25 facilitate orderly and timely placements in and outside of the state. A copy of this
33.26 documentation shall be provided to the court in the review required under section 260C.317,
33.27 subdivision 3, paragraph (b); or

33.28 ~~(7) when a child cannot return to or be in the care of either parent, documentation of~~
33.29 ~~steps to finalize~~ (ii) the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative as the
33.30 permanency plan for the child. This documentation must support the requirements of the
33.31 kinship placement agreement under section 142A.605 and must include the reasonable
33.32 efforts used to determine that it is not appropriate for the child to return home or be adopted,
33.33 and reasons why permanent placement with a relative through a Northstar kinship assistance
33.34 arrangement is in the child's best interest; how the child meets the eligibility requirements

34.1 for Northstar kinship assistance payments; agency efforts to discuss adoption with the child's
 34.2 relative foster parent and reasons why the relative foster parent chose not to pursue adoption,
 34.3 if applicable; and agency efforts to discuss with the child's parent or parents the permanent
 34.4 transfer of permanent legal and physical custody or the reasons why these efforts were not
 34.5 made;

34.6 ~~(8)~~ (7) efforts to ensure the child's educational stability while in foster care for a child
 34.7 who attained the minimum age for compulsory school attendance under state law and is
 34.8 enrolled full time in elementary or secondary school, or instructed in elementary or secondary
 34.9 education at home, or instructed in an independent study elementary or secondary program,
 34.10 or incapable of attending school on a full-time basis due to a medical condition that is
 34.11 documented and supported by regularly updated information in the child's case plan.

34.12 Educational stability efforts include:

34.13 (i) efforts to ensure that the child remains in the same school in which the child was
 34.14 enrolled prior to placement or upon the child's move from one placement to another, including
 34.15 efforts to work with the local education authorities to ensure the child's educational stability
 34.16 and attendance; or

34.17 (ii) if it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the same school that the child was
 34.18 enrolled in prior to placement or move from one placement to another, efforts to ensure
 34.19 immediate and appropriate enrollment for the child in a new school;

34.20 ~~(9)~~ (8) the educational records of the child including the most recent information available
 34.21 regarding:

34.22 (i) the names and addresses of the child's educational providers;

34.23 (ii) the child's grade level performance;

34.24 (iii) the child's school record;

34.25 (iv) a statement about how the child's placement in foster care takes into account
 34.26 proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; and

34.27 (v) any other relevant educational information;

34.28 ~~(10)~~ (9) the efforts by the responsible social services agency to ~~ensure~~ support the child's
 34.29 well-being by ensuring the oversight and continuity of health care services for the foster
 34.30 child and documenting their health record, including:

34.31 (i) the plan to schedule the child's initial health screens;

- 35.1 (ii) how the child's known medical problems and identified needs from the screens,
35.2 including any known communicable diseases, as defined in section 144.4172, subdivision
35.3 2, shall be monitored and treated while the child is in foster care;
- 35.4 (iii) how the child's medical information shall be updated and shared, including the
35.5 child's immunizations;
- 35.6 (iv) who is responsible to coordinate and respond to the child's health care needs,
35.7 including the role of the parent, the agency, and the foster parent;
- 35.8 (v) who is responsible for oversight of the child's prescription medications;
- 35.9 (vi) how physicians or other appropriate medical and nonmedical professionals shall be
35.10 consulted and involved in assessing the health and well-being of the child and determine
35.11 the appropriate medical treatment for the child; ~~and~~
- 35.12 (vii) the responsibility to ensure that the child has access to medical care through either
35.13 medical insurance or medical assistance; and
- 35.14 ~~(11) the health records of the child including~~ (viii) information available regarding:
- 35.15 ~~(i)~~ (A) the names and addresses of the child's health care and dental care providers;
- 35.16 ~~(ii)~~ (B) a record of the child's immunizations;
- 35.17 ~~(iii)~~ (C) the child's known medical problems, including any known communicable
35.18 diseases as defined in section 144.4172, subdivision 2;
- 35.19 ~~(iv)~~ (D) the child's medications; and
- 35.20 ~~(v)~~ (E) any other relevant health care information such as the child's eligibility for medical
35.21 insurance or medical assistance;
- 35.22 ~~(12)~~ (10) an independent living plan for a child 14 years of age or older, developed in
35.23 consultation with the child. The child may select one member of the case planning team to
35.24 be designated as the child's advisor and to advocate with respect to the application of the
35.25 reasonable and prudent parenting standards in subdivision 14. The plan should include, but
35.26 not be limited to, the following objectives:
- 35.27 (i) educational, vocational, or employment planning;
- 35.28 (ii) health care planning and medical coverage;
- 35.29 (iii) transportation including, where appropriate, assisting the child in obtaining a driver's
35.30 license;

36.1 (iv) money management, including the responsibility of the responsible social services
 36.2 agency to ensure that the child annually receives, at no cost to the child, a consumer report
 36.3 as defined under section 13C.001 and assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies
 36.4 in the report;

36.5 (v) planning for housing;

36.6 (vi) social and recreational skills;

36.7 (vii) establishing and maintaining connections with the child's family and community;
 36.8 and

36.9 (viii) regular opportunities to engage in age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate
 36.10 activities typical for the child's age group, taking into consideration the capacities of the
 36.11 individual child;

36.12 ~~(13)~~ (11) for a child in voluntary foster care for treatment under chapter 260D, diagnostic
 36.13 and assessment information, specific services relating to meeting the mental health care
 36.14 needs of the child, and treatment outcomes;

36.15 ~~(14)~~ (12) for a child 14 years of age or older, a signed acknowledgment that describes
 36.16 the child's rights regarding education, health care, visitation, safety and protection from
 36.17 exploitation, and court participation; receipt of the documents identified in section 260C.452;
 36.18 and receipt of an annual credit report. The acknowledgment shall state that the rights were
 36.19 explained in an age-appropriate manner to the child; and

36.20 ~~(15)~~ (13) for a child placed in a qualified residential treatment program, the plan must
 36.21 include the requirements in section 260C.708.

36.22 ~~(d)~~ (e) The parent or parents or guardian and the child each shall have the right to legal
 36.23 counsel in the preparation of the case plan and shall be informed of the right at the time of
 36.24 placement of the child. The child shall also have the right to a guardian ad litem. If unable
 36.25 to employ counsel from their own resources, the court shall appoint counsel upon the request
 36.26 of the parent or parents or the child or the child's legal guardian. The parent or parents may
 36.27 also receive assistance from any person or social services agency in preparation of the case
 36.28 plan.

36.29 ~~(e) Before an out-of-home placement plan is signed by the parent or parents or guardian~~
 36.30 ~~of the child, the responsible social services agency must provide the parent or parents or~~
 36.31 ~~guardian with a one- to two- page summary of the plan using a form developed by the~~
 36.32 ~~commissioner. The out-of-home placement plan summary must clearly summarize the plan's~~
 36.33 ~~contents under paragraph (c) and list the requirements and responsibilities for the parent or~~

37.1 ~~parents or guardian using plain language. The summary must be updated and provided to~~
37.2 ~~the parent or parents or guardian when the out-of-home placement plan is updated under~~
37.3 ~~subdivision 1a.~~

37.4 (f) After the plan has been agreed upon by the parties involved or approved or ordered
37.5 by the court, the foster parents shall be fully informed of the provisions of the case plan and
37.6 shall be provided a copy of the plan.

37.7 (g) Upon the child's discharge from foster care, the responsible social services agency
37.8 must provide the child's parent, adoptive parent, or permanent legal and physical custodian,
37.9 and the child, if the child is 14 years of age or older, with a current copy of the child's health
37.10 and education record. If a child meets the conditions in subdivision 15, paragraph (b), the
37.11 agency must also provide the child with the child's social and medical history. The responsible
37.12 social services agency may give a copy of the child's health and education record and social
37.13 and medical history to a child who is younger than 14 years of age, if it is appropriate and
37.14 if subdivision 15, paragraph (b), applies.

37.15 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.212, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

37.16 Subd. 1a. **Out-of-home placement plan update.** (a) Within 30 days of placing the child
37.17 in foster care, the agency must complete the child's out-of-home placement plan summary
37.18 and file it with the court. Within 60 days of placing the child in foster care, the agency must
37.19 file the child's initial out-of-home placement plan with the court. After filing the child's
37.20 ~~initial~~ out-of-home placement plan, the agency shall update and file the child's out-of-home
37.21 placement plan with the court as follows:

37.22 (1) when the agency moves a child to a different foster care setting, the agency shall
37.23 inform the court within 30 days of the child's placement change or court-ordered trial home
37.24 visit. The agency must file the child's updated out-of-home placement plan summary and
37.25 out-of-home placement plan with the court at the next required review hearing;

37.26 (2) when the agency places a child in a qualified residential treatment program as defined
37.27 in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d, or moves a child from one qualified residential
37.28 treatment program to a different qualified residential treatment program, the agency must
37.29 update the child's out-of-home placement plan within 60 days. To meet the requirements
37.30 of section 260C.708, the agency must file the child's out-of-home placement plan along
37.31 with the agency's report seeking the court's approval of the child's placement at a qualified
37.32 residential treatment program under section 260C.71. After the court issues an order, the
37.33 agency must update the child's out-of-home placement plan to document the court's approval
37.34 or disapproval of the child's placement in a qualified residential treatment program;

38.1 (3) when the agency places a child with the child's parent in a licensed residential
38.2 family-based substance use disorder treatment program under section 260C.190, the agency
38.3 must identify the treatment program where the child will be placed in the child's out-of-home
38.4 placement plan prior to the child's placement. The agency must file the child's out-of-home
38.5 placement plan summary and out-of-home placement plan with the court at the next required
38.6 review hearing; and

38.7 (4) under sections 260C.227 and 260C.521, the agency must update the child's
38.8 out-of-home placement plan summary and out-of-home placement plan and file the child's
38.9 out-of-home placement plan with the court.

38.10 (b) When none of the items in paragraph (a) apply, the agency must update the child's
38.11 out-of-home placement plan summary and out-of-home placement plan no later than 180
38.12 days after the child's initial placement and every six months thereafter, consistent with
38.13 section 260C.203, paragraph (a).

38.14 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.221, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

38.15 Subd. 2. **Relative notice requirements.** (a) The agency may provide oral or written
38.16 notice to a child's relatives. In the child's case record, the agency must document providing
38.17 the required notice to each of the child's relatives. The responsible social services agency
38.18 must notify relatives:

38.19 (1) of the need for a foster home for the child, the option to become a placement resource
38.20 for the child, the order of placement that the agency will consider under section 260C.212,
38.21 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), and the possibility of the need for a permanent placement for
38.22 the child;

38.23 (2) of their responsibility to keep the responsible social services agency and the court
38.24 informed of their current address in order to receive notice in the event that a permanent
38.25 placement is sought for the child and to receive notice of the permanency progress review
38.26 hearing under section 260C.204. A relative who fails to provide a current address to the
38.27 responsible social services agency and the court forfeits the right to receive notice of the
38.28 possibility of permanent placement and of the permanency progress review hearing under
38.29 section 260C.204, until the relative provides a current address to the responsible social
38.30 services agency and the court. A decision by a relative not to be identified as a potential
38.31 permanent placement resource or participate in planning for the child shall not affect whether
38.32 the relative is considered for placement of, or as a permanency resource for, the child with
38.33 that relative at any time in the case, and shall not be the sole basis for the court to rule out
38.34 the relative as the child's placement or permanency resource;

39.1 (3) that the relative may participate in the care and planning for the child, as specified
39.2 in subdivision 3, including that the opportunity for such participation may be lost by failing
39.3 to respond to the notice sent under this subdivision;

39.4 (4) of the family foster care licensing and adoption home study requirements and supports,
39.5 including ~~how to complete an application and how to request a variance from licensing~~
39.6 ~~standards that do not present a safety or health risk to the child in the home under section~~
39.7 ~~142B.10 and supports that are available for relatives and children who reside in a family~~
39.8 ~~foster home;~~

39.9 (i) the choice between county or private agency licensing and services under section
39.10 142B.05, subdivision 3;

39.11 (ii) how to complete an application;

39.12 (iii) how to request a variance from licensing standards that do not present a safety or
39.13 health risk to the child in the home under section 142B.10; and

39.14 (iv) supports that are available for relatives and children who reside in a family foster
39.15 home, including but not limited to ways to include resource or substitute caregivers in the
39.16 child's case plan, strategies for leveraging the child and family's natural supports, and how
39.17 to access legal services and support and respite care;

39.18 (5) of the relatives' right to ask to be notified of any court proceedings regarding the
39.19 child, to attend the hearings, and of a relative's right to be heard by the court as required
39.20 under section 260C.152, subdivision 5;

39.21 (6) that regardless of the relative's response to the notice sent under this subdivision, the
39.22 agency is required to establish permanency for a child, including planning for alternative
39.23 permanency options if the agency's reunification efforts fail or are not required; and

39.24 (7) that by responding to the notice, a relative may receive information about participating
39.25 in a child's family and permanency team if the child is placed in a qualified residential
39.26 treatment program as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 26d.

39.27 (b) The responsible social services agency shall send the notice required under paragraph
39.28 (a) to relatives who become known to the responsible social services agency, except for
39.29 relatives that the agency does not contact due to safety reasons under subdivision 5, paragraph
39.30 (b). The responsible social services agency shall continue to send notice to relatives
39.31 notwithstanding a court's finding that the agency has made reasonable efforts to conduct a
39.32 relative search.

40.1 (c) The responsible social services agency is not required to send the notice under
40.2 paragraph (a) to a relative who becomes known to the agency after an adoption placement
40.3 agreement has been fully executed under section 260C.613, subdivision 1. If the relative
40.4 wishes to be considered for adoptive placement of the child, the agency shall inform the
40.5 relative of the relative's ability to file a motion for an order for adoptive placement under
40.6 section 260C.607, subdivision 6.

40.7 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.223, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

40.8 Subdivision 1. **Program; goals.** (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families
40.9 shall establish a program for concurrent permanency planning for child protection services.

40.10 (b) Concurrent permanency planning involves a planning process for children who are
40.11 placed out of the home of their parents pursuant to a court order, or who have been voluntarily
40.12 placed out of the home by the parents for 60 days or more and who are not developmentally
40.13 disabled or emotionally disabled under section 260C.212, subdivision 9. The responsible
40.14 social services agency shall develop an alternative permanency plan while making reasonable
40.15 efforts for reunification of the child with the family, if required by section 260.012. The
40.16 goals of concurrent permanency planning are to:

40.17 (1) achieve early permanency for children;

40.18 (2) decrease children's length of stay in foster care and reduce the number of moves
40.19 children experience in foster care; and

40.20 (3) ~~develop a group of families~~ establish a foster parent for a child who will work ~~towards~~
40.21 toward reunification and also serve as a permanent families family for children.

40.22 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.223, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

40.23 Subd. 2. **Development of guidelines and protocols.** (a) The commissioner shall establish
40.24 guidelines and protocols for social services agencies involved in concurrent permanency
40.25 planning, including criteria for conducting concurrent permanency planning based on relevant
40.26 factors such as:

40.27 (1) age of the child and duration of out-of-home placement;

40.28 (2) prognosis for successful reunification with parents;

40.29 (3) availability of relatives and other concerned individuals to provide support or a
40.30 permanent placement for the child; and

40.31 (4) special needs of the child and other factors affecting the child's best interests.

41.1 (b) In developing the guidelines and protocols, the commissioner shall consult with
41.2 interest groups within the child protection system, including child protection workers, child
41.3 protection advocates, county attorneys, law enforcement, community service organizations,
41.4 the councils of color, and the ombudsperson for families.

41.5 (c) The responsible social services agency must not make a foster family the permanent
41.6 home for a child until:

41.7 (1) inquiry and Tribal notice requirements under section 260.761, subdivisions 1 and 2,
41.8 are satisfied;

41.9 (2) inquiry about the child's heritage, including their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant
41.10 to section 260.63, subdivision 10, has been completed; and

41.11 (3) the court has determined that reasonable or active efforts toward completing the
41.12 relative search requirements in section 260C.221 have been made.

41.13 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.329, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

41.14 Subd. 3. **Petition.** (a) The following individuals may file a petition for the reestablishment
41.15 of the legal parent and child relationship:

41.16 (1) county attorney;

41.17 (2) a parent whose parental rights were terminated under a previous order of the court;

41.18 (3) a parent whose voluntary consent to adoption was accepted by the court and:

41.19 (i) the identified prospective adoptive parent did not finalize the adoption; or

41.20 (ii) the adoption finalized but subsequently dissolved and the child returned to foster
41.21 care and guardianship of the commissioner;

41.22 (4) a child who is ten years of age or older;

41.23 (5) the responsible social services agency; or

41.24 (6) a guardian ad litem may file a petition for the reestablishment of the legal parent and
41.25 child relationship.

41.26 (b) A parent filing a petition under this section shall pay a filing fee in the amount
41.27 required under section 357.021, subdivision 2, clause (1). The filing fee may be waived
41.28 pursuant to chapter 563. A petition for the reestablishment of the legal parent and child
41.29 relationship may be filed when:

41.30 (1) the parent has corrected the conditions that led to an order terminating parental rights;

42.1 (2) the parent is willing and has the capability to provide day-to-day care and maintain
42.2 the health, safety, and welfare of the child;

42.3 (3) the child has been in foster care for at least 24 months after the court issued the order
42.4 terminating parental rights;

42.5 (4) the child ~~has~~ is not been currently adopted; and

42.6 (5) the child is not the subject of a written adoption placement agreement between the
42.7 responsible social services agency and the prospective adoptive parent, as required under
42.8 Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0060, subpart 2.

42.9 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.329, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

42.10 Subd. 8. **Hearing.** The court may grant the petition ordering the reestablishment of the
42.11 legal parent and child relationship only if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that:

42.12 (1) reestablishment of the legal parent and child relationship is in the child's best interests;

42.13 (2) the child ~~has~~ is not been currently adopted;

42.14 (3) the child is not the subject of a written adoption placement agreement between the
42.15 responsible social services agency and the prospective adoptive parent, as required under
42.16 Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0060, subpart 2;

42.17 (4) at least 24 months have elapsed following a final order terminating parental rights
42.18 and the child remains in foster care;

42.19 (5) the child desires to reside with the parent;

42.20 (6) the parent has corrected the conditions that led to an order terminating parental rights;
42.21 and

42.22 (7) the parent is willing and has the capability to provide day-to-day care and maintain
42.23 the health, safety, and welfare of the child.

42.24 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.451, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

42.25 Subd. 9. **Administrative or court review of placements.** (a) The court ~~shall~~ must
42.26 conduct reviews at least annually to ensure the responsible social services agency is making
42.27 reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan for the child.

42.28 (b) The responsible social services agency must file a written report with the court
42.29 containing or attaching the following:

42.30 (1) the child's name, date of birth, race, gender, and current address;

43.1 (2) a written summary describing planning with the child, including supports and services
 43.2 to ensure the child's safety, housing stability, well-being needs, and independent living
 43.3 skills;

43.4 (3) the child's most recent out-of-home placement plan and independent living plan
 43.5 required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1;

43.6 (4) if the child's plan is to not continue in extended foster care or if the child will reach
 43.7 age 21 before the next review, a copy of their 180-day transition plan as required in section
 43.8 260C.452, subdivision 4; and

43.9 (5) if the agency plans to transition the child into adult services, a summary of the
 43.10 transition plan as required in section 260C.452, subdivision 4, and how this plan is in the
 43.11 child's best interest.

43.12 ~~(b)~~ (c) The court ~~shall~~ must find that the responsible social services agency is making
 43.13 reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan for the child when the responsible social
 43.14 services agency:

43.15 (1) provides appropriate support to the child and caregiver or foster care provider parent
 43.16 to ensure continuing stability and success in placement;

43.17 (2) works with the child to plan for transition to adulthood and assists the child in
 43.18 demonstrating progress in achieving related goals;

43.19 (3) works with the child to plan for independent living skills and assists the child in
 43.20 demonstrating progress in achieving independent living goals; and

43.21 (4) prepares the child for independence according to sections 260C.203, paragraph (d),
 43.22 and 260C.452, subdivision 4.

43.23 ~~(e)~~ (d) The responsible social services agency must ensure that an administrative review
 43.24 that meets the requirements of this section and section 260C.203 is completed at least six
 43.25 months after each of the court's annual reviews.

43.26 Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260C.452, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

43.27 Subd. 4. **Administrative or court review of placements.** (a) When the youth is 14 years
 43.28 of age or older, the court, in consultation with the youth, shall review the youth's independent
 43.29 living plan according to section 260C.203, paragraph (d).

43.30 (b) The responsible social services agency shall file a copy of the notification of foster
 43.31 care benefits for a youth who is 18 years of age or older according to section 260C.451,
 43.32 subdivision 1, with the court. If the responsible social services agency does not file the

44.1 notice by the time the youth is 17-1/2 years of age, the court shall require the responsible
44.2 social services agency to file the notice.

44.3 (c) When a youth is 18 years of age or older, the court shall ensure that the responsible
44.4 social services agency assists the youth in obtaining the following documents before the
44.5 youth leaves foster care: a Social Security card; an official or certified copy of the youth's
44.6 birth certificate; a state identification card or driver's license, Tribal enrollment identification
44.7 card, ~~green~~ permanent resident card, or school visa; health insurance information; the youth's
44.8 school, medical, and dental records; a contact list of the youth's medical, dental, and mental
44.9 health providers; and contact information for the youth's siblings, if the siblings are in foster
44.10 care.

44.11 (d) For a youth who will be discharged from foster care at 18 years of age or older
44.12 because the youth is not eligible for extended foster care benefits or chooses to leave foster
44.13 care, the responsible social services agency must develop a personalized transition plan as
44.14 directed by the youth during the 180-day period immediately prior to the expected date of
44.15 discharge. The transition plan must be as detailed as the youth elects and include specific
44.16 options, including but not limited to:

44.17 (1) affordable housing with necessary supports that does not include a homeless shelter;

44.18 (2) health insurance, including eligibility for medical assistance as defined in section
44.19 256B.055, subdivision 17;

44.20 (3) education, including application to the Education and Training Voucher Program;

44.21 (4) local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services;

44.22 (5) workforce supports and employment services;

44.23 (6) a copy of the youth's consumer credit report as defined in section 13C.001 and
44.24 assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report, at no cost to the youth;

44.25 (7) information on executing a health care directive under chapter 145C and on the
44.26 importance of designating another individual to make health care decisions on behalf of the
44.27 youth if the youth becomes unable to participate in decisions;

44.28 (8) appropriate contact information through 21 years of age if the youth needs information
44.29 or help dealing with a crisis situation; and

44.30 (9) official documentation that the youth was previously in foster care.

45.1 Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.03, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

45.2 Subd. 15. **Neglect.** (a) "Neglect" means the commission or omission of any of the acts
45.3 specified under clauses (1) to (8), other than by accidental means:

45.4 (1) failure by a person responsible for a child's care to supply a child with necessary
45.5 food, clothing, shelter, health, medical, or other care required for the child's physical or
45.6 mental health when reasonably able to do so;

45.7 (2) failure to protect a child from conditions or actions that seriously endanger the child's
45.8 physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so, including a growth delay, which
45.9 may be referred to as a failure to thrive, that has been diagnosed by a physician and is due
45.10 to parental neglect;

45.11 (3) failure to provide for necessary supervision or child care arrangements appropriate
45.12 for a child after considering factors as the child's age, mental ability, physical condition,
45.13 length of absence, or environment, when the child is unable to care for the child's own basic
45.14 needs or safety, or the basic needs or safety of another child in their care;

45.15 (4) failure to ensure that the child is educated as defined in sections 120A.22 and
45.16 260C.163, subdivision 11, which does not include a parent's refusal to provide the parent's
45.17 child with sympathomimetic medications, consistent with section 125A.091, subdivision
45.18 5;

45.19 (5) prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in section 253B.02, subdivision
45.20 2, used by the mother for a nonmedical purpose, as evidenced by withdrawal symptoms in
45.21 the child at birth, results of a toxicology test performed on the mother at delivery or the
45.22 child at birth, medical effects or developmental delays during the child's first year of life
45.23 that medically indicate prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, or the presence of a
45.24 fetal alcohol spectrum disorder;

45.25 (6) medical neglect, as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (5);

45.26 (7) chronic and severe use of alcohol or a controlled substance by a person responsible
45.27 for the child's care that adversely affects the child's basic needs and safety; or

45.28 (8) emotional harm from a pattern of behavior that contributes to impaired emotional
45.29 functioning of the child which may be demonstrated by a substantial and observable effect
45.30 in the child's behavior, emotional response, or cognition that is not within the normal range
45.31 for the child's age and stage of development, with due regard to the child's culture.

45.32 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to mean that a child is neglected solely
45.33 because the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care in good

46.1 faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or
 46.2 remedial care of the child in lieu of medical care.

46.3 (c) This chapter does not impose upon persons not otherwise legally responsible for
 46.4 providing a child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care a duty
 46.5 to provide that care.

46.6 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to mean that a child who has a mental,
 46.7 physical, or emotional condition is neglected solely because the child remains in an
 46.8 emergency department or hospital setting because services, including residential treatment,
 46.9 that are deemed necessary by the child's medical or mental health care professional or county
 46.10 case manager are not available to the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible
 46.11 for the child's care, and the child cannot be safely discharged to the child's family.

46.12 Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.065, is amended to read:

46.13 **260E.065 TRAINING FOR REPORTERS.**

46.14 Subdivision 1. Required training. The local welfare agency must offer training to a
 46.15 person required to make a report under section 260E.055 or 260E.06. The training may be
 46.16 offered online or in person and must provide an explanation of the legal obligations of a
 46.17 reporter, consequences for failure to report, and instruction on how to detect and report
 46.18 suspected maltreatment ~~or suspected abuse, as defined under section 260E.055, subdivision~~
 46.19 ~~1, paragraph (b).~~ A local welfare agency may fulfill the requirement under this section by
 46.20 directing reporters to trainings offered by the commissioner.

46.21 Subd. 2. Training content. For a training under this section, at least half of the training
 46.22 time must be spent on how to identify signs of suspected maltreatment or abuse, as defined
 46.23 in section 260E.055, subdivision 1, paragraph (b). The training must cover the definition
 46.24 of each maltreatment type as defined in section 260E.03, subdivision 12.

46.25 Subd. 3. Expert input. The commissioner must create trainings with input from
 46.26 professionals with specialized knowledge related to maltreatment, including but not limited
 46.27 to medical professionals, attorneys, mental health professionals, and social workers.

46.28 Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.09, is amended to read:

46.29 **260E.09 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

46.30 (a) An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. An oral report
 46.31 made by a person required under section 260E.06, subdivision 1, to report shall be followed
 46.32 within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, by a report in writing to the appropriate

47.1 police department, the county sheriff, the agency responsible for assessing or investigating
47.2 the report, or the local welfare agency.

47.3 (b) Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed
47.4 to be responsible for the maltreatment of the child if the person is known, the nature and
47.5 extent of the maltreatment, and the name and address of the reporter. The local welfare
47.6 agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall accept a report
47.7 made under section 260E.06 notwithstanding refusal by a reporter to provide the reporter's
47.8 name or address as long as the report is otherwise sufficient under this paragraph. The local
47.9 welfare agency or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report shall ask the
47.10 reporter if the reporter is aware of the child or family heritage, including the child's Tribal
47.11 lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and their race, culture, and ethnicity pursuant to section
47.12 260.63, subdivision 10.

47.13 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), upon implementation of the provider licensing and
47.14 reporting hub, an individual who has an account with the provider licensing and reporting
47.15 hub and is required to report suspected maltreatment at a licensed program under section
47.16 260E.06, subdivision 1, may submit a written report in the hub in a manner prescribed by
47.17 the commissioner and is not required to make an oral report. A report submitted through
47.18 the provider licensing and reporting hub must be made immediately.

47.19 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.20, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

47.20 Subdivision 1. **General duties.** (a) The local welfare agency shall offer services to
47.21 prevent future maltreatment, safeguarding and enhancing the welfare of the maltreated child,
47.22 and supporting and preserving family life whenever possible.

47.23 (b) If the report alleges a violation of a criminal statute involving maltreatment or child
47.24 endangerment under section 609.378, the local law enforcement agency and local welfare
47.25 agency shall coordinate the planning and execution of their respective investigation and
47.26 assessment efforts to avoid a duplication of fact-finding efforts and multiple interviews.
47.27 Each agency shall prepare a separate report of the results of the agency's investigation or
47.28 assessment.

47.29 (c) In cases of alleged child maltreatment resulting in death, the local agency may rely
47.30 on the fact-finding efforts of a law enforcement investigation to make a determination of
47.31 whether or not maltreatment occurred.

47.32 (d) When necessary, the local welfare agency shall seek authority to remove the child
47.33 from the custody of a parent, guardian, or adult with whom the child is living.

48.1 (e) In performing any of these duties, the local welfare agency shall maintain an
48.2 appropriate record.

48.3 (f) In conducting a family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or
48.4 investigation, the local welfare agency shall gather information on the existence of substance
48.5 abuse and domestic violence.

48.6 (g) If the family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation
48.7 indicates there is a potential for abuse of alcohol or other drugs by the parent, guardian, or
48.8 person responsible for the child's care, the local welfare agency must coordinate a
48.9 comprehensive assessment pursuant to section 245G.05.

48.10 (h) The agency may use either a family assessment or investigation to determine whether
48.11 the child is safe when responding to a report resulting from birth match data under section
48.12 260E.03, subdivision 23, paragraph (c). If the child subject of birth match data is determined
48.13 to be safe, the agency shall consult with the county attorney to determine the appropriateness
48.14 of filing a petition alleging the child is in need of protection or services under section
48.15 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (16), in order to deliver needed services. If the child is
48.16 determined not to be safe, the agency and the county attorney shall take appropriate action
48.17 as required under section 260C.503, subdivision 2.

48.18 (i) When conducting any assessment or investigation, the agency shall ask the child, if
48.19 age appropriate; parents; extended family; and reporter about the child's family heritage,
48.20 including the child's Tribal lineage pursuant to section 260.761 and the child's race, culture,
48.21 and ethnicity pursuant to section 260.63, subdivision 10.

48.22 Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.20, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

48.23 Subd. 3. **Collection of information.** (a) The local welfare agency responsible for
48.24 conducting a family assessment, noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or investigation
48.25 shall collect available and relevant information to determine child safety, risk of subsequent
48.26 maltreatment, and family strengths and needs and share not public information with an
48.27 Indian's Tribal social services agency without violating any law of the state that may
48.28 otherwise impose a duty of confidentiality on the local welfare agency in order to implement
48.29 the Tribal state agreement.

48.30 (b) The local welfare agency or the agency responsible for investigating the report shall
48.31 collect available and relevant information to ascertain whether maltreatment occurred and
48.32 whether protective services are needed.

49.1 (c) Information collected includes, when relevant, information regarding the person
49.2 reporting the alleged maltreatment, including the nature of the reporter's relationship to the
49.3 child and to the alleged offender, and the basis of the reporter's knowledge for the report;
49.4 the child allegedly being maltreated; the alleged offender; the child's caretaker; and other
49.5 collateral sources having relevant information related to the alleged maltreatment.

49.6 (d) Information relevant to the assessment or investigation must be requested, and may
49.7 include:

49.8 (1) the child's sex and age; prior reports of maltreatment, including any maltreatment
49.9 reports that were screened out and not accepted for assessment or investigation; information
49.10 relating to developmental functioning; credibility of the child's statement; and whether the
49.11 information provided under this clause is consistent with other information collected during
49.12 the course of the assessment or investigation;

49.13 (2) except in a noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, the alleged offender's age,
49.14 a record check for prior reports of maltreatment, and criminal charges and convictions;

49.15 (3) collateral source information regarding the alleged maltreatment and care of the
49.16 child. Collateral information includes, when relevant: (i) a medical examination of the child;
49.17 (ii) prior medical records relating to the alleged maltreatment or the care of the child
49.18 maintained by any facility, clinic, or health care professional and an interview with the
49.19 treating professionals; and (iii) interviews with the child's caretakers, including the child's
49.20 parent, guardian, foster parent, child care provider, teachers, counselors, family members,
49.21 relatives, and other persons who may have knowledge regarding the alleged maltreatment
49.22 and the care of the child; and

49.23 (4) information on the existence of domestic abuse and violence in the home of the child,
49.24 and substance abuse.

49.25 (e) Nothing in this subdivision precludes the local welfare agency, the local law
49.26 enforcement agency, or the agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report from
49.27 collecting other relevant information necessary to conduct the assessment or investigation.

49.28 (f) Notwithstanding section 13.384 or 144.291 to 144.298, the local welfare agency has
49.29 access to medical data and records for purposes of paragraph (d), clause (3).

49.30 **Sec. 38. [260E.215] REPORTING OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CONCERNS.**

49.31 **Subdivision 1. Reports required.** (a) A person mandated to report under this chapter
49.32 must immediately report to the local welfare agency or designated partner if the person
49.33 knows or has reason to believe that a child required to be enrolled in school under section

50.1 120A.22 has at least seven unexcused absences in the current school year and is at risk of
50.2 educational neglect or truancy under section 260C.163, subdivision 11.

50.3 (b) Any person may make a voluntary report if the person knows or has reason to believe
50.4 that a child required to be enrolled in school under section 120A.22 has at least seven
50.5 unexcused absences in the current school year and is at risk of educational neglect or truancy
50.6 under section 260C.163, subdivision 11.

50.7 (c) An oral report must be made immediately. An oral report made by a person required
50.8 to report under paragraph (a) must be followed within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and
50.9 holidays, by a report in writing to the local welfare agency. A report must sufficiently
50.10 identify the child and the child's parent or guardian, the actual or estimated number of the
50.11 child's unexcused absences in the current school year, the efforts made by school officials
50.12 to resolve attendance concerns with the family, and the name and address of the reporter.
50.13 A voluntary reporter under paragraph (b) may refuse to provide their name or address if the
50.14 report is otherwise sufficient, and the local welfare agency must accept such a report.

50.15 Subd. 2. **Local welfare agency.** (a) The local welfare agency or partner designated to
50.16 provide child welfare services must provide a child welfare response for a report that alleges
50.17 a child enrolled in school has seven or more unexcused absences. When providing a child
50.18 welfare response under this paragraph, the local welfare agency or designated partner must
50.19 offer services to the child and the child's family to address school attendance concerns or
50.20 may partner with a county attorney's office, a community-based organization, or other
50.21 community partner to provide the services. The services must be culturally and linguistically
50.22 appropriate and tailored to the needs of the child and the child's family. This section is
50.23 subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act under sections
50.24 260.751 to 260.835 and the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child
50.25 Welfare Disproportionality Act under sections 260.61 to 260.693.

50.26 (b) If the unexcused absences continue and the family has not engaged with services
50.27 under paragraph (a) after the local welfare agency or partner designated to provide child
50.28 welfare services has made multiple varied attempts to engage the child's family, a report of
50.29 educational neglect must be made regardless of the number of unexcused absences the child
50.30 has accrued. The local welfare agency must determine the response path assignment pursuant
50.31 to section 260E.17 and may proceed with the process outlined in section 260C.141.

50.32 Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.24, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

50.33 Subdivision 1. **Timing.** The local welfare agency shall conclude the family assessment,
50.34 the noncaregiver human trafficking assessment, or the investigation within 45 days of the

51.1 receipt of a report. The conclusion of the assessment or investigation may be extended to
 51.2 permit the completion of a criminal investigation or the receipt of expert information
 51.3 requested within 45 days of the receipt of the report.

51.4 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260E.24, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

51.5 Subd. 2. **Determination after family assessment or a noncaregiver human trafficking**
 51.6 **assessment.** After conducting a family assessment or a noncaregiver human trafficking
 51.7 assessment, the local welfare agency shall determine whether child protective services are
 51.8 needed to address the safety of the child and other family members and the risk of subsequent
 51.9 maltreatment. The local welfare agency must document the information collected under
 51.10 section 260E.20, subdivision 3, related to the completed family assessment or noncaregiver
 51.11 human trafficking assessment in the child's or family's case notes.

51.12 Sec. 41. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

51.13 The revisor of statutes shall change paragraphs to subdivisions, clauses to paragraphs,
 51.14 and items to clauses in Minnesota Statutes, sections 260C.203 and 260C.204. The revisor
 51.15 shall make any necessary grammatical changes or changes to sentence structure necessary
 51.16 to preserve the meaning of the text as a result of the changes. The revisor of statutes must
 51.17 correct any statutory cross-references consistent with the changes in this section.

51.18 ARTICLE 3

51.19 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE FINANCE

51.20 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.03, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

51.21 Subd. 2. **Duties of the commissioner.** (a) The commissioner may apply for and accept
 51.22 on behalf of the state any grants, bequests, gifts, or contributions for the purpose of carrying
 51.23 out the duties and responsibilities of the commissioner. Any money received under this
 51.24 paragraph is appropriated and dedicated for the purpose for which the money is granted.
 51.25 The commissioner must biennially report to the chairs and ranking minority members of
 51.26 relevant legislative committees and divisions by January 15 of each even-numbered year a
 51.27 list of all grants and gifts received under this subdivision.

51.28 (b) Pursuant to law, the commissioner may apply for and receive money made available
 51.29 from federal sources for the purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the
 51.30 commissioner.

52.1 (c) The commissioner may make contracts with and grants to Tribal Nations, public and
52.2 private agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and individuals using appropriated
52.3 money.

52.4 (d) The commissioner must develop program objectives and performance measures for
52.5 evaluating progress toward achieving the objectives. The commissioner must identify the
52.6 objectives, performance measures, and current status of achieving the measures in a biennial
52.7 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of relevant legislative committees and
52.8 divisions. The report is due no later than January 15 each even-numbered year. The report
52.9 must include, when possible, the following objectives:

52.10 (1) centering and including the lived experiences of children and youth, including those
52.11 with disabilities and mental illness and their families, in all aspects of the department's work;

52.12 (2) increasing the effectiveness of the department's programs in addressing the needs of
52.13 children and youth facing racial, economic, or geographic inequities;

52.14 (3) increasing coordination and reducing inefficiencies among the department's programs
52.15 and the funding sources that support the programs;

52.16 (4) increasing the alignment and coordination of family access to child care and early
52.17 learning programs and improving systems of support for early childhood and learning
52.18 providers and services;

52.19 (5) improving the connection between the department's programs and the kindergarten
52.20 through grade 12 and higher education systems; and

52.21 (6) minimizing and streamlining the effort required of youth and families to receive
52.22 services to which the youth and families are entitled.

52.23 (e) The commissioner shall administer and supervise the forms of public assistance and
52.24 other activities or services that are vested in the commissioner. Administration and
52.25 supervision of activities or services includes but is not limited to assuring timely and accurate
52.26 distribution of benefits, completeness of service, and quality program management. In
52.27 addition to administering and supervising activities vested by law in the department, the
52.28 commissioner has the authority to:

52.29 (1) require county agency participation in training and technical assistance programs to
52.30 promote compliance with statutes, rules, federal laws, regulations, and policies governing
52.31 the programs and activities administered by the commissioner;

52.32 (2) monitor, on an ongoing basis, the performance of county agencies in the operation
52.33 and administration of activities and programs; enforce compliance with statutes, rules,

53.1 federal laws, regulations, and policies governing welfare services; and promote excellence
53.2 of administration and program operation;

53.3 (3) develop a quality control program or other monitoring program to review county
53.4 performance and accuracy of benefit determinations;

53.5 (4) require county agencies to make an adjustment to the public assistance benefits issued
53.6 to any individual consistent with federal law and regulation and state law and rule and to
53.7 issue or recover benefits as appropriate;

53.8 (5) delay or deny payment of all or part of the state and federal share of benefits and
53.9 administrative reimbursement according to the procedures set forth in section 142A.10;

53.10 (6) make contracts with and grants to public and private agencies and organizations,
53.11 both for-profit and nonprofit, and individuals, using appropriated funds; and

53.12 (7) enter into contractual agreements with federally recognized Indian Tribes with a
53.13 reservation in Minnesota to the extent necessary for the Tribe to operate a federally approved
53.14 family assistance program or any other program under the supervision of the commissioner.
53.15 The commissioner shall consult with the affected county or counties in the contractual
53.16 agreement negotiations, if the county or counties wish to be included, in order to avoid the
53.17 duplication of county and Tribal assistance program services. The commissioner may
53.18 establish necessary accounts for the purposes of receiving and disbursing funds as necessary
53.19 for the operation of the programs.

53.20 The commissioner shall work in conjunction with the commissioner of human services to
53.21 carry out the duties of this paragraph when necessary and feasible.

53.22 (f) The commissioner shall inform county agencies, on a timely basis, of changes in
53.23 statute, rule, federal law, regulation, and policy necessary to county agency administration
53.24 of the programs and activities administered by the commissioner.

53.25 (g) The commissioner shall administer and supervise child welfare activities, including
53.26 promoting the enforcement of laws preventing child maltreatment and protecting children
53.27 with a disability and children who are in need of protection or services, licensing and
53.28 supervising child care and child-placing agencies, and supervising the care of children in
53.29 foster care. The commissioner shall coordinate with the commissioner of human services
53.30 on activities impacting children overseen by the Department of Human Services, such as
53.31 disability services, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment.

53.32 (h) The commissioner shall assist and cooperate with local, state, and federal departments,
53.33 agencies, and institutions.

54.1 (i) The commissioner shall establish and maintain any administrative units reasonably
54.2 necessary for the performance of administrative functions common to all divisions of the
54.3 department.

54.4 (j) The commissioner shall act as designated guardian of children pursuant to chapter
54.5 260C. For children under the guardianship of the commissioner or a Tribe in Minnesota
54.6 recognized by the Secretary of the Interior whose interests would be best served by adoptive
54.7 placement, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a
54.8 Minnesota Tribal social services agency to provide adoption services. For children in
54.9 out-of-home care whose interests would be best served by a transfer of permanent legal and
54.10 physical custody to a relative under section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or equivalent in Tribal
54.11 code, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a Minnesota
54.12 Tribal social services agency to provide permanency services. A contract with a licensed
54.13 child-placing agency must be designed to supplement existing county efforts and may not
54.14 replace existing county programs or Tribal social services, unless the replacement is agreed
54.15 to by the county board and the appropriate exclusive bargaining representative, Tribal
54.16 governing body, or the commissioner has evidence that child placements of the county
54.17 continue to be substantially below that of other counties. Funds encumbered and obligated
54.18 under an agreement for a specific child shall remain available until the terms of the agreement
54.19 are fulfilled or the agreement is terminated.

54.20 (k) The commissioner has the authority to conduct and administer experimental projects
54.21 to test methods and procedures of administering assistance and services to recipients or
54.22 potential recipients of public benefits. To carry out the experimental projects, the
54.23 commissioner may waive the enforcement of existing specific statutory program
54.24 requirements, rules, and standards in one or more counties. The order establishing the waiver
54.25 must provide alternative methods and procedures of administration and must not conflict
54.26 with the basic purposes, coverage, or benefits provided by law. No project under this
54.27 paragraph shall exceed four years. No order establishing an experimental project as authorized
54.28 by this paragraph is effective until the following conditions have been met:

54.29 (1) the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services has agreed, for the same
54.30 project, to waive state plan requirements relative to statewide uniformity; and

54.31 (2) a comprehensive plan, including estimated project costs, has been approved by the
54.32 Legislative Advisory Commission and filed with the commissioner of administration.

54.33 (l) The commissioner shall, according to federal requirements and in coordination with
54.34 the commissioner of human services, establish procedures to be followed by local welfare

55.1 boards in creating citizen advisory committees, including procedures for selection of
55.2 committee members.

55.3 (m) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions that are
55.4 based on quality control error rates for the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC)
55.5 program formerly codified in sections 256.72 to 256.87 or the Supplemental Nutrition
55.6 Assistance Program (SNAP) in the following manner:

55.7 (1) one-half of the total amount of the disallowance shall be borne by the county boards
55.8 responsible for administering the programs. For AFDC, disallowances shall be shared by
55.9 each county board in the same proportion as that county's expenditures to the total of all
55.10 counties' expenditures for AFDC. For SNAP, sanctions shall be shared by each county
55.11 board, with 50 percent of the sanction being distributed to each county in the same proportion
55.12 as that county's administrative costs for SNAP benefits are to the total of all SNAP
55.13 administrative costs for all counties, and 50 percent of the sanctions being distributed to
55.14 each county in the same proportion as that county's value of SNAP benefits issued are to
55.15 the total of all benefits issued for all counties. Each county shall pay its share of the
55.16 disallowance to the state of Minnesota. When a county fails to pay the amount due under
55.17 this paragraph, the commissioner may deduct the amount from reimbursement otherwise
55.18 due the county, or the attorney general, upon the request of the commissioner, may institute
55.19 civil action to recover the amount due; and

55.20 (2) notwithstanding the provisions of clause (1), if the disallowance results from knowing
55.21 noncompliance by one or more counties with a specific program instruction, and that knowing
55.22 noncompliance is a matter of official county board record, the commissioner may require
55.23 payment or recover from the county or counties, in the manner prescribed in clause (1), an
55.24 amount equal to the portion of the total disallowance that resulted from the noncompliance
55.25 and may distribute the balance of the disallowance according to clause (1).

55.26 (n) The commissioner shall develop and implement special projects that maximize
55.27 reimbursements and result in the recovery of money to the state. For the purpose of recovering
55.28 state money, the commissioner may enter into contracts with third parties. Any recoveries
55.29 that result from projects or contracts entered into under this paragraph shall be deposited
55.30 in the state treasury and credited to a special account until the balance in the account reaches
55.31 \$1,000,000. When the balance in the account exceeds \$1,000,000, the excess shall be
55.32 transferred and credited to the general fund. All money in the account is appropriated to the
55.33 commissioner for the purposes of this paragraph.

56.1 (o) The commissioner has the authority to establish and enforce the following county
56.2 reporting requirements:

56.3 (1) the commissioner shall establish fiscal and statistical reporting requirements necessary
56.4 to account for the expenditure of funds allocated to counties for programs administered by
56.5 the commissioner. When establishing financial and statistical reporting requirements, the
56.6 commissioner shall evaluate all reports, in consultation with the counties, to determine if
56.7 the reports can be simplified or the number of reports can be reduced;

56.8 (2) the county board shall submit monthly or quarterly reports to the department as
56.9 required by the commissioner. Monthly reports are due no later than 15 working days after
56.10 the end of the month. Quarterly reports are due no later than 30 calendar days after the end
56.11 of the quarter, unless the commissioner determines that the deadline must be shortened to
56.12 20 calendar days to avoid jeopardizing compliance with federal deadlines or risking a loss
56.13 of federal funding. Only reports that are complete, legible, and in the required format shall
56.14 be accepted by the commissioner;

56.15 (3) if the required reports are not received by the deadlines established in clause (2), the
56.16 commissioner may delay payments and withhold funds from the county board until the next
56.17 reporting period. When the report is needed to account for the use of federal funds and the
56.18 late report results in a reduction in federal funding, the commissioner shall withhold from
56.19 the county boards with late reports an amount equal to the reduction in federal funding until
56.20 full federal funding is received;

56.21 (4) a county board that submits reports that are late, illegible, incomplete, or not in the
56.22 required format for two out of three consecutive reporting periods is considered
56.23 noncompliant. When a county board is found to be noncompliant, the commissioner shall
56.24 notify the county board of the reason the county board is considered noncompliant and
56.25 request that the county board develop a corrective action plan stating how the county board
56.26 plans to correct the problem. The corrective action plan must be submitted to the
56.27 commissioner within 45 days after the date the county board received notice of
56.28 noncompliance;

56.29 (5) the final deadline for fiscal reports or amendments to fiscal reports is one year after
56.30 the date the report was originally due. If the commissioner does not receive a report by the
56.31 final deadline, the county board forfeits the funding associated with the report for that
56.32 reporting period and the county board must repay any funds associated with the report
56.33 received for that reporting period;

57.1 (6) the commissioner may not delay payments, withhold funds, or require repayment
57.2 under clause (3) or (5) if the county demonstrates that the commissioner failed to provide
57.3 appropriate forms, guidelines, and technical assistance to enable the county to comply with
57.4 the requirements. If the county board disagrees with an action taken by the commissioner
57.5 under clause (3) or (5), the county board may appeal the action according to sections 14.57
57.6 to 14.69; and

57.7 (7) counties subject to withholding of funds under clause (3) or forfeiture or repayment
57.8 of funds under clause (5) shall not reduce or withhold benefits or services to clients to cover
57.9 costs incurred due to actions taken by the commissioner under clause (3) or (5).

57.10 (p) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions for audit
57.11 exceptions when federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions are based on a statewide random
57.12 sample in direct proportion to each county's claim for that period.

57.13 (q) The commissioner is responsible for ensuring the detection, prevention, investigation,
57.14 and resolution of fraudulent activities or behavior by applicants, recipients, and other
57.15 participants in the programs administered by the department. The commissioner shall
57.16 cooperate with the commissioner of education to enforce the requirements for program
57.17 integrity and fraud prevention for investigation for child care assistance under chapter 142E.

57.18 (r) The commissioner shall require county agencies to identify overpayments, establish
57.19 claims, and utilize all available and cost-beneficial methodologies to collect and recover
57.20 these overpayments in the programs administered by the department.

57.21 (s) The commissioner shall develop recommended standards for child foster care homes
57.22 that address the components of specialized therapeutic services to be provided by child
57.23 foster care homes with those services.

57.24 (t) The commissioner shall authorize the method of payment to or from the department
57.25 as part of the programs administered by the department. This authorization includes the
57.26 receipt or disbursement of funds held by the department in a fiduciary capacity as part of
57.27 the programs administered by the department.

57.28 (u) In coordination with the commissioner of human services, the commissioner shall
57.29 create and provide county and Tribal agencies with blank applications, affidavits, and other
57.30 forms as necessary for public assistance programs.

57.31 (v) The commissioner shall cooperate with the federal government and its public welfare
57.32 agencies in any reasonable manner as may be necessary to qualify for federal aid for
57.33 temporary assistance for needy families and in conformity with Title I of Public Law 104-193,

58.1 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and successor
58.2 amendments, including making reports that contain information required by the federal
58.3 Social Security Advisory Board and complying with any provisions the board may find
58.4 necessary to assure the correctness and verification of the reports.

58.5 (w) On or before January 15 in each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall make
58.6 a biennial report to the governor concerning the activities of the agency.

58.7 (x) The commissioner shall enter into agreements with other departments of the state as
58.8 necessary to meet all requirements of the federal government.

58.9 (y) The commissioner may cooperate with other state agencies in establishing reciprocal
58.10 agreements in instances where a child receiving Minnesota family investment program
58.11 (MFIP) assistance or its out-of-state equivalent moves or contemplates moving into or out
58.12 of the state, in order that the child may continue to receive MFIP or equivalent aid from the
58.13 state moved from until the child has resided for one year in the state moved to.

58.14 (z) The commissioner shall provide appropriate technical assistance to county agencies
58.15 to develop methods to have county financial workers remind and encourage recipients of
58.16 aid to families with dependent children, the Minnesota family investment program, the
58.17 Minnesota family investment plan, family general assistance, or SNAP benefits whose
58.18 assistance unit includes at least one child under the age of five to have each young child
58.19 immunized against childhood diseases. The commissioner must examine the feasibility of
58.20 utilizing the capacity of a statewide computer system to assist county agency financial
58.21 workers in performing this function at appropriate intervals.

58.22 (aa) The commissioner shall have the power and authority to accept on behalf of the
58.23 state contributions and gifts for the use and benefit of children under the guardianship or
58.24 custody of the commissioner. The commissioner may also receive and accept on behalf of
58.25 such children money due and payable to them as old age and survivors insurance benefits,
58.26 veterans benefits, pensions, or other such monetary benefits. Gifts, contributions, pensions,
58.27 and benefits under this paragraph must be deposited in and disbursed from the social welfare
58.28 fund provided for in sections 256.88 to 256.92.

58.29 (bb) The specific enumeration of powers and duties in this section must not be construed
58.30 to be a limitation upon the general powers granted to the commissioner.

58.31 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.810, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

58.32 Subdivision 1. **Payments.** The commissioner shall make grant payments to each approved
58.33 program in four quarterly installments a year. The commissioner may certify an advance

59.1 payment for the first quarter of the state fiscal year. Later payments must be made ~~upon~~
59.2 ~~receipt by the state of a quarterly report on finances and program activities~~ quarterly.

59.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.810, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

59.4 Subd. 2. **Quarterly report Reporting.** The commissioner shall ~~specify~~ engage Tribal
59.5 and urban Indian organizations to establish requirements for reports and reporting timelines,
59.6 including quarterly fiscal reports submitted to the commissioner at least annually, according
59.7 to section 142A.03, subdivision 2, paragraph (o). Each ~~quarter~~ reporting period as agreed
59.8 upon by the commissioner and grantee, an approved program receiving an Indian child
59.9 welfare grant shall submit a report to the commissioner that includes:

59.10 (1) a detailed accounting of grant money expended during the preceding ~~quarter~~ reporting
59.11 period, specifying expenditures by line item and year to date; and

59.12 (2) a description of Indian child welfare activities conducted during the preceding ~~quarter~~
59.13 reporting period, including the number of clients served and the type of services provided.

59.14 ~~The quarterly~~ Reports must be submitted no later than 30 days after the ~~end of each~~
59.15 ~~quarter~~ agreed upon reporting timelines of the state fiscal year.

59.16 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.821, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

59.17 Subd. 2. **Special focus grants.** The amount available for grants established under section
59.18 260.785, subdivision 2, for child-placing agencies, Tribes, Indian organizations, and other
59.19 social services organizations is one-fifth of the total annual appropriation for Indian child
59.20 welfare grants. ~~The maximum award under this subdivision is \$100,000 a year for programs~~
59.21 ~~approved by the commissioner.~~

59.22 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 518A.46, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

59.23 Subd. 7. **Administrative redirection of support.** (a) The public authority must provide
59.24 written notice of redirection to the obligee, the obligor, and the caregiver. The notice must
59.25 be mailed to the obligor, obligee, and caregiver at the obligee's, the obligor's, and the
59.26 caregiver's respective last known address. The notice must state the name of the child or
59.27 children for whom support will be redirected, to whom the support will be redirected, the
59.28 date the support will be redirected, and the amount of the support that will be redirected.
59.29 The notice must also inform the parties of the right to contest the redirection of support
59.30 according to paragraph (c).

60.1 (b) If fewer than all of the children for whom the support is ordered reside with the
60.2 caregiver, the public authority must redirect the proportional share of the support for the
60.3 number of children residing with the caregiver.

60.4 (c) The obligee or obligor may contest the redirection of support on the limited grounds
60.5 that:

60.6 (1) the child or children do not reside or no longer reside with the caregiver;

60.7 (2) under an out-of-home placement plan under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, that
60.8 includes a plan for reunification, all or part of the support is needed to maintain the obligee's
60.9 home; or

60.10 (3) the redirection of support is not in the best interests of the child.

60.11 (d) To contest the redirection, the obligee or obligor must make a written request for a
60.12 hearing to the public authority within 30 calendar days of the date of the written notice of
60.13 redirection. The hearing must be held at the earliest practicable time, but no later than 30
60.14 calendar days from the date the public authority receives the written request for a hearing.
60.15 If the public authority receives a timely written request for a hearing, the public authority
60.16 must schedule a hearing and serve the obligee and the obligor with a notice of hearing at
60.17 least 14 days before the date of the hearing. The notice must be served personally or by
60.18 mail at the obligee's and the obligor's respective last known address. The public authority
60.19 must file with the court the notice of hearing along with the notice of redirection at least
60.20 five days before the scheduled hearing. The court administrator must schedule these hearings
60.21 to be heard in the expedited process before a child support magistrate, but may schedule
60.22 these hearings in district court if the availability of a child support magistrate does not permit
60.23 a hearing to occur within the time frames of this subdivision.

60.24 (e) If neither the obligee nor the obligor contests the redirection of support under this
60.25 subdivision, support must be redirected to the caregiver effective the first day of the month
60.26 following the expiration of the time period to contest under paragraph (d). If the obligee or
60.27 the obligor contests the redirection of support under paragraph (d), the public authority must
60.28 not redirect support to the caregiver pending the outcome of the hearing.

60.29 (f) The redirection of the basic support, medical support, and child care support terminates
60.30 and the public authority must direct support to the obligee if the public authority determines
60.31 that:

60.32 (1) the caregiver for the child no longer receives public assistance for the child;

60.33 (2) the voluntary placement agreement expires; ~~or~~

61.1 (3) the court order placing the child is no longer in effect; or

61.2 (4) the redirection of support is not in the best interests of the child as determined under
61.3 section 260B.331, subdivision 1, or 260C.331, subdivision 1.

61.4 (g) The public authority must notify the obligee, obligor, and caregiver of a termination
61.5 of the redirection of support by mailing a written notice to each of them at their last known
61.6 address. The termination is effective the first day of the month that occurs at least 14 calendar
61.7 days after the date the notice is mailed.

61.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2025.

61.9 Sec. 6. **SOCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM MODERNIZATION.**

61.10 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must improve and modernize the
61.11 child welfare social services information system. Elements the commissioner must address
61.12 as part of the system modernization include but are not limited to:

61.13 (1) capabilities that support case intake, screening, assessments, and investigations;

61.14 (2) the capacity for local social services agencies to track various financial information,
61.15 including benefits received by counties on behalf of children in the child welfare system,
61.16 and fees received by counties from parents with children in out-of-home placements;

61.17 (3) access for the ombudspersons for families, the ombudsperson for American Indian
61.18 families, and the foster youth ombudsperson, on a case-by-case basis, to nonprivileged
61.19 information necessary for the discharge of the ombudsperson's duties, including specific
61.20 child protection case information, while protecting Tribal data sovereignty;

61.21 (4) comprehensive statewide data reports, including data on law enforcement involvement
61.22 in the child protection system;

61.23 (5) demographic information about children in the child welfare system, including race,
61.24 cultural and ethnic identity, disability status, and economic status;

61.25 (6) bidirectional data exchanges, as required by federal Comprehensive Child Welfare
61.26 Information System regulations; and

61.27 (7) data quality measures, as required by federal Comprehensive Child Welfare
61.28 Information System regulations.

61.29 (b) By March 15, 2026, the commissioner of children, youth, and families must provide
61.30 the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
61.31 over child welfare and state and local government with a plan and estimated timeline for

62.1 modernization of the social services information system in compliance with state law and
 62.2 federal Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System requirements.

62.3 (c) By August 15, 2026, and by each January 15 and July 15 thereafter, the commissioner
 62.4 must provide an update on the social services information system modernization efforts and
 62.5 progress toward federal compliance required under this section to the chairs and ranking
 62.6 minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child welfare and
 62.7 state and local government. This paragraph expires upon the commissioner's report to the
 62.8 chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
 62.9 child welfare and state and local government that the modernization required under this
 62.10 section has been substantially completed.

62.11 **ARTICLE 4**

62.12 **EARLY CARE AND LEARNING POLICY**

62.13 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.42, is amended to read:

62.14 **142A.42 DIAPER DISTRIBUTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

62.15 Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** The commissioner of children, youth, and
 62.16 families shall establish a diaper distribution program to award ~~competitive grants to eligible~~
 62.17 ~~applicants~~ a sole-source grant to the Diaper Bank of Minnesota to provide diapers to
 62.18 underresourced families statewide.

62.19 Subd. 2. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for a grant under this section, ~~an applicant~~ the Diaper
 62.20 Bank of Minnesota must demonstrate its capacity to distribute diapers statewide by having:

62.21 (1) a network of well-established partners for diaper distribution;

62.22 (2) the infrastructure needed to efficiently manage diaper procurement and distribution
 62.23 statewide;

62.24 (3) relationships with national organizations that support and enhance the work of
 62.25 addressing diaper need;

62.26 (4) the ability to engage in building community awareness of diaper need and advocate
 62.27 for diaper need at local, state, and federal levels;

62.28 (5) a commitment to and demonstration of working with organizations across ideological
 62.29 and political spectrums;

62.30 (6) the ability to address diaper need for children from birth through early childhood;
 62.31 and

63.1 (7) a commitment to working within an equity framework by ensuring access to
 63.2 organizations that provide culturally specific services or are located in communities with
 63.3 high concentrations of poverty.

63.4 Subd. 3. **Application.** ~~Applicants~~ The Diaper Bank of Minnesota must apply to the
 63.5 commissioner in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner. Applications must be
 63.6 filed at the times and for the periods determined by the commissioner.

63.7 Subd. 4. **Eligible uses of grant money.** ~~An eligible applicant that receives grant money~~
 63.8 ~~under this section shall~~ The Diaper Bank of Minnesota must use the money awarded under
 63.9 this section to purchase diapers and wipes and may use up to ten percent of the money for
 63.10 administrative costs.

63.11 Subd. 5. **Enforcement.** (a) ~~An eligible applicant that receives grant money under this~~
 63.12 ~~section~~ The Diaper Bank of Minnesota must:

63.13 (1) retain records documenting expenditure of the grant money;

63.14 (2) report to the commissioner on the use of the grant money; and

63.15 (3) comply with any additional requirements imposed by the commissioner.

63.16 (b) The commissioner may require that a report submitted under this subdivision include
 63.17 an independent audit.

63.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142D.21, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

63.19 Subd. 6. **Payments.** (a) The commissioner shall provide payments under this section to
 63.20 all eligible programs on a noncompetitive basis. The payment amounts shall be based on
 63.21 the number of full-time equivalent staff who regularly care for children in the program,
 63.22 including any employees, sole proprietors, or independent contractors.

63.23 (b) For purposes of this section, "one full-time equivalent" is defined as an individual
 63.24 caring for children 32 hours per week. An individual can count as more or less than one
 63.25 full-time equivalent staff, but as no more than two full-time equivalent staff.

63.26 (c) The commissioner must establish an amount to award per full-time equivalent
 63.27 individual who regularly cares for children in the program.

63.28 ~~(d) Payments must be increased by ten percent for programs receiving child care~~
 63.29 ~~assistance payments under section 142E.08 or 142E.17 or early learning scholarships under~~
 63.30 ~~section 142D.25, or for programs located in a child care access equity area. The commissioner~~
 63.31 ~~must develop a method for establishing child care access equity areas. For purposes of this~~
 63.32 ~~section, "child care access equity area" means an area with low access to child care, high~~

64.1 ~~poverty rates, high unemployment rates, low homeownership rates, and low median~~
 64.2 ~~household incomes.~~

64.3 ~~(e)~~ (d) The commissioner shall establish the form, frequency, and manner for making
 64.4 payments under this section.

64.5 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142D.21, is amended by adding a subdivision to
 64.6 read:

64.7 Subd. 11. **Data.** (a) For the purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the
 64.8 meanings given in this paragraph.

64.9 (1) "Great start compensation program support payment data" means data for a specified
 64.10 time period showing that a great start compensation payment under this section was made
 64.11 and the amount of great start compensation payments made to a child care and early learning
 64.12 program.

64.13 (2) "Data on children and families" means data about the enrollment and attendance as
 64.14 described in subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2).

64.15 (b) Great start compensation program support payment data are public except that:

64.16 (1) any data on children and families collected by the great start compensation support
 64.17 payment program that may identify a specific family or child or, as determined by the
 64.18 commissioner, are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12;

64.19 (2) great start compensation payment data about operating expenses and personnel
 64.20 expenses are private or nonpublic data; and

64.21 (3) great start compensation payment data about legal nonlicensed child care providers
 64.22 as described in subdivision 8 are private or nonpublic data.

64.23 **ARTICLE 5**

64.24 **EARLY CARE AND LEARNING FINANCE**

64.25 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.18, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

64.26 Subd. 4. **License suspension, revocation, or fine.** (a) The commissioner may suspend
 64.27 or revoke a license, or impose a fine if:

64.28 (1) a license holder fails to comply fully with applicable laws or rules including but not
 64.29 limited to the requirements of this chapter and chapter 245C;

65.1 (2) a license holder, a controlling individual, or an individual living in the household
65.2 where the licensed services are provided or is otherwise subject to a background study has
65.3 been disqualified and the disqualification was not set aside and no variance has been granted;

65.4 (3) a license holder knowingly withholds relevant information from or gives false or
65.5 misleading information to the commissioner in connection with an application for a license,
65.6 in connection with the background study status of an individual, during an investigation,
65.7 or regarding compliance with applicable laws or rules;

65.8 (4) a license holder is excluded from any program administered by the commissioner
65.9 under section 142A.12;

65.10 (5) revocation is required under section 142B.10, subdivision 14, paragraph (d);

65.11 (6) for a family foster setting, a license holder, or an individual living in the household
65.12 where the licensed services are provided or who is otherwise subject to a background study,
65.13 has nondisqualifying background study information, as described in section 245C.05,
65.14 subdivision 4, that reflects on the license holder's ability to safely provide care to foster
65.15 children; or

65.16 (7) suspension is necessary under subdivision 3, paragraph (b), clause (2).

65.17 A license holder who has had a license issued under this chapter suspended, revoked, or
65.18 has been ordered to pay a fine must be given notice of the action by certified mail, by
65.19 personal service, or through the provider licensing and reporting hub. If mailed, the notice
65.20 must be mailed to the address shown on the application or the last known address of the
65.21 license holder. The notice must state in plain language the reasons the license was suspended
65.22 or revoked, or a fine was ordered.

65.23 (b) If the license was suspended or revoked, the notice must inform the license holder
65.24 of the right to a contested case hearing under chapter 14 and Minnesota Rules, parts
65.25 1400.8505 to 1400.8612. The license holder may appeal an order suspending or revoking
65.26 a license. The appeal of an order suspending or revoking a license must be made in writing
65.27 by certified mail, by personal service, or through the provider licensing and reporting hub.
65.28 If mailed, the appeal must be postmarked and sent to the commissioner within ten calendar
65.29 days after the license holder receives notice that the license has been suspended or revoked.
65.30 If a request is made by personal service, it must be received by the commissioner within
65.31 ten calendar days after the license holder received the order. If the order is issued through
65.32 the provider hub, the appeal must be received by the commissioner within ten calendar days
65.33 from the date the commissioner issued the order through the hub. Except as provided in
65.34 subdivision 3, paragraph (c), if a license holder submits a timely appeal of an order

66.1 suspending or revoking a license, the license holder may continue to operate the program
66.2 as provided under section 142B.10, subdivision 14, paragraphs (i) and (j), until the
66.3 commissioner issues a final order on the suspension or revocation.

66.4 (c)(1) If the license holder was ordered to pay a fine, the notice must inform the license
66.5 holder of the responsibility for payment of fines and the right to a contested case hearing
66.6 under chapter 14 and Minnesota Rules, parts 1400.8505 to 1400.8612. The appeal of an
66.7 order to pay a fine must be made in writing by certified mail, by personal service, or through
66.8 the provider licensing and reporting hub. If mailed, the appeal must be postmarked and sent
66.9 to the commissioner within ten calendar days after the license holder receives notice that
66.10 the fine has been ordered. If a request is made by personal service, it must be received by
66.11 the commissioner within ten calendar days after the license holder received the order. If the
66.12 order is issued through the provider hub, the appeal must be received by the commissioner
66.13 within ten calendar days from the date the commissioner issued the order through the hub.

66.14 (2) The license holder shall pay the fines assessed on or before the payment date specified.
66.15 If the license holder fails to fully comply with the order, the commissioner may issue a
66.16 second fine or suspend the license until the license holder complies. If the license holder
66.17 receives state funds, the state, county, or municipal agencies or departments responsible for
66.18 administering the funds shall withhold payments and recover any payments made while the
66.19 license is suspended for failure to pay a fine. A timely appeal shall stay payment of the fine
66.20 until the commissioner issues a final order.

66.21 (3) A license holder shall promptly notify the commissioner of children, youth, and
66.22 families, in writing, when a violation specified in the order to forfeit a fine is corrected. If
66.23 upon reinspection the commissioner determines that a violation has not been corrected as
66.24 indicated by the order to forfeit a fine, the commissioner may issue a second fine. The
66.25 commissioner shall notify the license holder by certified mail, by personal service, or through
66.26 the provider licensing and reporting hub that a second fine has been assessed. The license
66.27 holder may appeal the second fine as provided under this subdivision.

66.28 (4) Fines shall be assessed as follows:

66.29 (i) the license holder shall forfeit \$1,000 for each determination of maltreatment of a
66.30 child under chapter 260E or the maltreatment of a vulnerable adult under section 626.557
66.31 for which the license holder is determined responsible for the maltreatment under section
66.32 260E.30, subdivision 4, paragraphs (a) and (b), or 626.557, subdivision 9c, paragraph (c);

66.33 (ii) if the commissioner determines that a determination of maltreatment for which the
66.34 license holder is responsible is the result of maltreatment that meets the definition of serious

67.1 maltreatment as defined in section 245C.02, subdivision 18, the license holder shall forfeit
67.2 \$5,000;

67.3 (iii) for a program that operates out of the license holder's home and a program licensed
67.4 under Minnesota Rules, parts 9502.0300 to 9502.0445, the fine assessed against the license
67.5 holder shall not exceed \$1,000 for each determination of maltreatment;

67.6 (iv) the license holder shall forfeit \$200 for each occurrence of a violation of law or rule
67.7 governing matters of health, safety, or supervision, including but not limited to the provision
67.8 of adequate staff-to-child or adult ratios, ~~and failure to comply with background study~~
67.9 ~~requirements under chapter 245C; and~~

67.10 (v) the license holder shall forfeit \$500 for each occurrence of failure to comply with
67.11 background study requirements under chapter 245C; and

67.12 ~~(v)~~ (vi) the license holder shall forfeit \$100 for each occurrence of a violation of law or
67.13 rule other than those subject to a \$5,000, \$1,000, ~~or~~ \$200, or \$500 fine in items (i) to ~~(iv)~~
67.14 (v).

67.15 (5) When a fine has been assessed, the license holder may not avoid payment by closing,
67.16 selling, or otherwise transferring the licensed program to a third party. In such an event, the
67.17 license holder will be personally liable for payment. In the case of a corporation, each
67.18 controlling individual is personally and jointly liable for payment.

67.19 (d) Except for background study violations involving the failure to comply with an order
67.20 to immediately remove an individual or an order to provide continuous, direct supervision,
67.21 the commissioner shall not issue a fine under paragraph (c) relating to a background study
67.22 violation to a license holder who self-corrects a background study violation before the
67.23 commissioner discovers the violation. A license holder who has previously exercised the
67.24 provisions of this paragraph to avoid a fine for a background study violation may not avoid
67.25 a fine for a subsequent background study violation unless at least 365 days have passed
67.26 since the license holder self-corrected the earlier background study violation.

67.27 Sec. 2. [142B.68] VIDEO SECURITY CAMERAS IN CHILD CARE CENTERS.

67.28 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the terms defined in this
67.29 subdivision have the meanings given.

67.30 (b) "Facility" means the indoor and outdoor space in which child care is provided that
67.31 is owned, leased, or operated by a licensed child care center.

68.1 (c) "Video security camera" means a video camera or other device that captures or
68.2 records video.

68.3 Subd. 2. **Requirements for video security cameras.** If a licensed child care center has
68.4 video security cameras in public and shared areas of its facility, the center must comply
68.5 with the requirements in this section.

68.6 Subd. 3. **Retention and disposal of recordings; access to recordings.** (a) A licensed
68.7 child care center must retain video security camera recordings for 60 calendar days after
68.8 the date of the recording. Except as provided under paragraphs (b), (c), and (d), a licensed
68.9 child care center must dispose of video security camera recordings after 60 calendar days.

68.10 (b) A licensed child care center that receives notice from a law enforcement official of
68.11 a suspected crime committed against a child at the center may not dispose of any video
68.12 security camera recordings until the law enforcement investigation of the suspected crime
68.13 is complete.

68.14 (c) A licensed child care center must retain video security camera recordings related to
68.15 an incident that the center must report to the commissioner under Minnesota Rules, part
68.16 9503.0130, for six months from the date of the incident.

68.17 (d) A licensed child care center may retain video security camera recordings to use for
68.18 training center employees. Any recordings used for training purposes must redact, as defined
68.19 under section 13.825, subdivision 1, identifying information on children shown or heard in
68.20 the recording, unless a parent or legal guardian has provided written consent providing that
68.21 the center may use unredacted recordings of the parent's or guardian's child.

68.22 (e) A licensed child care center must adhere to additional requirements issued by the
68.23 commissioner regarding retention and disposal of video security camera recordings.

68.24 (f) A licensed child care center must establish appropriate security safeguards for video
68.25 security camera recordings, including procedures for ensuring that the recordings are only
68.26 accessible to persons whose work assignment reasonably requires access to the recordings,
68.27 and are only accessed by those persons for purposes described in the procedure. All queries
68.28 and responses, and all actions in which the recordings are accessed, shared, or disseminated,
68.29 must be recorded in a data audit trail. Data contained in the audit trail are subject to the
68.30 same requirements as the underlying recording under this section.

68.31 Subd. 4. **Dissemination of recordings.** (a) A licensed child care center may not sell,
68.32 share, transmit, or disseminate a video security camera recording to any person except as
68.33 authorized by this subdivision.

69.1 (b) A child care center must disseminate a video security camera recording pursuant to
69.2 a valid court order, search warrant, or subpoena in a civil, criminal, or administrative
69.3 proceeding, including an investigation by the commissioner.

69.4 (c) A licensed child care center must establish a process by which a parent or legal
69.5 guardian may review, but not obtain a copy of, a video security camera recording if the
69.6 parent or guardian provides:

69.7 (1) documentation of visible marks on a child, such as bruises or swelling that has
69.8 persisted for more than 24 hours, or a child's physical impediment, such as a limp that was
69.9 not previously present; or

69.10 (2) documentation from a physician of a child's physical injury.

69.11 (d) An employee of a licensed child care center who is the subject of proposed disciplinary
69.12 action by the center based upon evidence obtained by a video security camera must be given
69.13 access to that evidence for purposes of defending against the proposed action. An employee
69.14 who obtains a recording or a copy of the recording must treat the recording or copy
69.15 confidentially and must not further disseminate it to any other person except as required
69.16 under law. The employee must not keep the recording or copy or a portion of the recording
69.17 or copy after it is no longer needed for purposes of defending against a proposed action.

69.18 Subd. 5. **Exception.** Notwithstanding subdivision 4, paragraph (a), a licensed child care
69.19 center that, as of July 1, 2025, provided remote viewing of video footage for parents and
69.20 legal guardians may continue to do so in the same manner.

69.21 Subd. 6. **Hold harmless.** (a) The commissioner may not issue a fix-it ticket, correction
69.22 order, or order of conditional license against a child care center license holder for a licensing
69.23 violation that does not imminently endanger the health or safety of the children served by
69.24 the center, if the only source of evidence for the violation is video security camera recordings
69.25 reviewed as part of an investigation under subdivision 4, paragraph (b). This paragraph
69.26 expires upon implementation of the child care weighted risk system under section 142B.171.
69.27 The commissioner shall notify the revisor of statutes when the system has been implemented.

69.28 (b) Upon implementation of the child care weighted risk system under section 142B.171,
69.29 the commissioner may not take a licensing action against a child care center license holder
69.30 for a violation that counts as 6.5 or below for a child care center in the weighted risk system,
69.31 if the only source of evidence for the violation is video security camera recordings reviewed
69.32 as part of an investigation under subdivision 4, paragraph (b).

70.1 Subd. 7. **Written policy required.** A licensed child care center must have a written
 70.2 policy on the center's use of video security cameras that includes the following:

70.3 (1) the days and times the video security cameras in the facility are in use;

70.4 (2) the locations of all areas monitored by video security cameras in the facility;

70.5 (3) the center's retention and disposal policies and procedures for the video security
 70.6 camera recordings;

70.7 (4) the center's policies governing access to the video security camera recordings; and

70.8 (5) the center's security safeguards and procedures regarding employee access to the
 70.9 recordings.

70.10 Subd. 8. **Notices.** (a) A licensed child care center must notify all parents and legal
 70.11 guardians who apply to enroll or enroll a child in the center about the use of video security
 70.12 cameras in the facility. At the time of a child's enrollment, the center must provide parents
 70.13 and legal guardians with the video security camera policy required under subdivision 7.

70.14 (b) A licensed child care center must post a sign at each facility entrance accessible to
 70.15 visitors that states: "Video security cameras are present to record persons and activities."

70.16 Subd. 9. **Data practices.** Video footage collected or maintained by the commissioner
 70.17 under this section is classified as welfare data under section 13.46.

70.18 Subd. 10. **Annual audit.** If a licensed child care center has video security cameras, the
 70.19 commissioner must conduct, as part of the annual licensing inspection required under this
 70.20 chapter, an audit to determine whether the center's use of video security cameras complies
 70.21 with the requirements of this section, including but not limited to all requirements in
 70.22 subdivision 3.

70.23 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142D.21, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

70.24 Subd. 10. **Account; carryforward authority.** ~~Money appropriated under this section~~
 70.25 ~~is available until expended.~~ (a) An account is established in the special revenue fund known
 70.26 as the great start compensation support payment program account.

70.27 (b) Money appropriated under this section must be transferred to the great start
 70.28 compensation support payment program account in the special revenue fund.

70.29 (c) Money in the account is annually appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes
 70.30 of this section. Any returned funds are available to be regranted.

71.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142D.23, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

71.2 Subd. 3. **Eligible uses of money.** Grantees must use money received under this section,
71.3 either directly or through grants to eligible child care providers, for one or more of the
71.4 following purposes:

71.5 (1) the purchase of computers or mobile devices for use in business management;

71.6 (2) access to the Internet through the provision of necessary hardware such as routers
71.7 or modems or by covering the costs of monthly fees for Internet access;

71.8 (3) covering the costs of subscription to child care management software;

71.9 (4) covering the costs of training in the use of technology for business management
71.10 purposes; ~~or~~

71.11 (5) covering the costs of video security cameras and related training required for licensed
71.12 child care centers under section 142B.68; or

71.13 ~~(5)~~ (6) other services as determined by the commissioner.

71.14 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142D.31, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

71.15 Subd. 2. **Program components.** (a) The nonprofit organization must use the grant for:

71.16 (1) tuition scholarships ~~up to \$10,000 per year~~ in amounts per year consistent with the
71.17 national TEACH early childhood program requirements for courses leading to the nationally
71.18 recognized child development associate credential or college-level courses leading to an
71.19 associate's degree or bachelor's degree in early childhood development and school-age care;
71.20 and

71.21 (2) education incentives of a minimum of \$250 to participants in the tuition scholarship
71.22 program if they complete a year of working in the early care and education field.

71.23 (b) Applicants for the scholarship must be employed by a licensed or certified early
71.24 childhood or child care program and working directly with children, a licensed family child
71.25 care provider, employed by a public prekindergarten program, employed by a Head Start
71.26 program, or an employee in a school-age program exempt from licensing under section
71.27 142B.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (8). Lower wage earners must be given priority
71.28 in awarding the tuition scholarships. Scholarship recipients must contribute at least ten
71.29 percent of the total scholarship and must be sponsored by their employers, who must also
71.30 contribute at least five percent of the total scholarship. Scholarship recipients who ~~are~~
71.31 ~~self-employed~~ work in licensed family child care under Minnesota Rules, chapter 9502,

72.1 must contribute ~~20~~ at least ten percent of the total scholarship and are not required to receive
 72.2 employer sponsorship or employer match.

72.3 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.03, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

72.4 Subd. 3. **Redeterminations.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 3400.0180, item
 72.5 A, the county shall conduct a redetermination according to paragraphs (b) and (c).

72.6 (b) The county shall use the redetermination form developed by the commissioner. The
 72.7 county must verify the factors listed in subdivision 1, paragraph (a), as part of the
 72.8 redetermination.

72.9 (c) An applicant's eligibility must be redetermined no more frequently than every 12
 72.10 months. The following criteria apply:

72.11 (1) a family meets the eligibility redetermination requirements if a complete
 72.12 redetermination form and all required verifications are received within 30 days after the
 72.13 date the form was due;

72.14 (2) if the 30th day after the date the form was due falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday,
 72.15 the 30-day time period is extended to include the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday,
 72.16 or holiday. Assistance shall be payable retroactively from the redetermination due date;

72.17 (3) for a family where at least one parent is younger than 21 years of age, does not have
 72.18 a high school degree or commissioner of education-selected high school equivalency
 72.19 certification, and is a student in a school district or another similar program that provides
 72.20 or arranges for child care, parenting, social services, career and employment supports, and
 72.21 academic support to achieve high school graduation, the redetermination of eligibility may
 72.22 be deferred beyond 12 months, to the end of the student's school year; ~~and~~

72.23 (4) starting May 25, 2026, if a new eligible child is added to the family and has care
 72.24 authorized, the redetermination of eligibility must be extended 12 months from the eligible
 72.25 child's arrival date; and

72.26 ~~(4)~~ (5) a family and the family's providers must be notified that the family's
 72.27 redetermination is due at least 45 days before the end of the family's 12-month eligibility
 72.28 period.

72.29 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.11, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

72.30 Subdivision 1. **General authorization requirements.** (a) When authorizing the amount
 72.31 of child care, the county agency must consider the amount of time the parent reports on the

73.1 application or redetermination form that the child attends preschool, a Head Start program,
73.2 or school while the parent is participating in an authorized activity.

73.3 (b) Care must be authorized and scheduled with a provider based on the applicant's or
73.4 participant's verified activity schedule when:

73.5 (1) the family requests care from more than one provider per child;

73.6 (2) the family requests care from a legal nonlicensed provider; or

73.7 (3) an applicant or participant is employed by any child care center that is licensed by
73.8 the Department of Children, Youth, and Families or has been identified as a high-risk
73.9 Medicaid-enrolled provider.

73.10 This paragraph expires March 2, 2026.

73.11 (c) If the family remains eligible at redetermination, a new authorization with fewer
73.12 hours, the same hours, or increased hours may be determined.

73.13 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.11, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

73.14 Subd. 2. **Maintain steady child care authorizations.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota
73.15 Rules, chapter 3400, the amount of child care authorized under section 142E.12 for
73.16 employment, education, or an MFIP employment plan shall continue at the same number
73.17 of hours or more hours until redetermination, including:

73.18 (1) when the other parent moves in and is employed or has an education plan under
73.19 section 142E.12, subdivision 3, or has an MFIP employment plan; or

73.20 (2) when the participant's work hours are reduced or a participant temporarily stops
73.21 working or attending an approved education program. Temporary changes include, but are
73.22 not limited to, a medical leave, seasonal employment fluctuations, or a school break between
73.23 semesters.

73.24 (b) The county may increase the amount of child care authorized at any time if the
73.25 participant verifies the need for increased hours for authorized activities.

73.26 (c) The county may reduce the amount of child care authorized if a parent requests a
73.27 reduction or because of a change in:

73.28 (1) the child's school schedule;

73.29 (2) the custody schedule; or

73.30 (3) the provider's availability.

74.1 (d) The amount of child care authorized for a family subject to subdivision 1, paragraph
 74.2 (b), must change when the participant's activity schedule changes. Paragraph (a) does not
 74.3 apply to a family subject to subdivision 1, paragraph (b). This paragraph expires March 2,
 74.4 2026.

74.5 (e) When a child reaches 13 years of age or a child with a disability reaches 15 years of
 74.6 age, the amount of child care authorized shall continue at the same number of hours or more
 74.7 hours until redetermination.

74.8 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.13, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

74.9 Subd. 2. **Extended eligibility and redetermination.** (a) If the family received three
 74.10 months of extended eligibility and redetermination is not due, to continue receiving child
 74.11 care assistance the participant must be employed or have an education plan that meets the
 74.12 requirements of section 142E.12, subdivision 3, or have an MFIP employment plan.
 74.13 Notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 3400.0110, if child care assistance continues, the
 74.14 amount of child care authorized shall continue at the same number or more hours until
 74.15 redetermination, unless a condition in section 142E.11, subdivision 2, paragraph (c), applies.
 74.16 ~~A family subject to section 142E.11, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), shall have child care~~
 74.17 ~~authorized based on a verified activity schedule.~~

74.18 (b) If the family's redetermination occurs before the end of the three-month extended
 74.19 eligibility period to continue receiving child care assistance, the participant must verify that
 74.20 the participant meets eligibility and activity requirements for child care assistance under
 74.21 this chapter. If child care assistance continues, the amount of child care authorized is based
 74.22 on section 142E.12. ~~A family subject to section 142E.11, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), shall~~
 74.23 ~~have child care authorized based on a verified activity schedule.~~

74.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective May 25, 2026.

74.25 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

74.26 Subdivision 1. **Fee schedule.** All changes to parent fees must be implemented on the
 74.27 first Monday of the service period following the effective date of the change.

74.28 PARENT FEE SCHEDULE. The parent fee schedule is as follows, except as noted in
 74.29 subdivision 2:

	Income Range (as a percent of the state median income, except at the start of the first tier)	Co-payment (as a percentage of adjusted gross income)
75.1		
75.2		
75.3		
75.4	0-74.99% <u>0-99.99%</u> of federal poverty guidelines	\$0/biweekly
75.5		
75.6	75.00-99.99% of federal poverty guidelines	\$2/biweekly
75.7	100.00% of federal poverty guidelines	
75.8	27.72% <u>27.99%</u>	2.61% <u>2.6%</u>
75.9	27.73-29.04%	2.61%
75.10	29.05-30.36%	2.61%
75.11	30.37-31.68%	2.61%
75.12	31.69-33.00%	2.91%
75.13	33.01-34.32%	2.91%
75.14	34.33-35.65%	2.91%
75.15	35.66-36.96%	2.91%
75.16	36.97-38.29%	3.21%
75.17	38.30-39.61%	3.21%
75.18	39.62-40.93%	3.21%
75.19	40.94-42.25%	3.84%
75.20	42.26-43.57%	3.84%
75.21	43.58-44.89%	4.46%
75.22	44.90-46.21%	4.76%
75.23	46.22-47.53%	5.05%
75.24	47.54-48.85%	5.65%
75.25	48.86-50.17%	5.95%
75.26	50.18-51.49%	6.24%
75.27	51.50-52.81%	6.84%
75.28	52.82-54.13%	7.58%
75.29	54.14-55.45%	8.33%
75.30	55.46-56.77%	9.20%
75.31	56.78-58.09%	10.07%
75.32	58.10-59.41%	10.94%
75.33	59.42-60.73%	11.55%
75.34	60.74-62.06%	12.16%
75.35	62.07-63.38%	12.77%
75.36	63.39-64.70%	13.38%
75.37	64.71-67.00%	14.00%
75.38	<u>28.00-30.99%</u>	<u>2.6%</u>
75.39	<u>31.00-33.99%</u>	<u>2.6%</u>

76.1	<u>34.00-36.99%</u>	<u>2.9%</u>
76.2	<u>37.00-39.99%</u>	<u>3.2%</u>
76.3	<u>40.00-42.99%</u>	<u>3.8%</u>
76.4	<u>43.00-45.99%</u>	<u>4.4%</u>
76.5	<u>46.00-48.99%</u>	<u>5.0%</u>
76.6	<u>49.00-51.99%</u>	<u>5.6%</u>
76.7	<u>52.00-54.99%</u>	<u>6.2%</u>
76.8	<u>55.00-57.99%</u>	<u>6.8%</u>
76.9	<u>58.00-60.99%</u>	<u>6.9%</u>
76.10	<u>61.00-63.99%</u>	<u>6.9%</u>
76.11	<u>64.00-67.00%</u>	<u>6.9%</u>
76.12	Greater than 67.00%	ineligible

76.13 A family's biweekly co-payment fee is the fixed percentage established for the income
76.14 range multiplied by the ~~highest~~ lowest possible income within that income range.

76.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective October 13, 2025.

76.16 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.16, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

76.17 Subd. 3. **Training required.** (a) Prior to initial authorization as required in subdivision
76.18 1, a legal nonlicensed family child care provider must complete first aid and CPR training
76.19 and provide the verification of first aid and CPR training to the commissioner. The training
76.20 documentation must have valid effective dates as of the date the registration request is
76.21 submitted to the commissioner. The training must have been provided by an individual
76.22 approved to provide first aid and CPR instruction and have included CPR techniques for
76.23 infants and children.

76.24 (b) Upon each reauthorization after the authorization period when the initial first aid
76.25 and CPR training requirements are met, a legal nonlicensed family child care provider must
76.26 provide verification of at least eight hours of additional training listed in the Minnesota
76.27 Center for Professional Development Registry.

76.28 (c) Every 12 months, a legal nonlicensed family child care provider who is unrelated to
76.29 the child they care for must complete two hours of training in caring for children approved
76.30 by the commissioner.

76.31 ~~(e)~~ (d) This subdivision only applies to legal nonlicensed family child care providers.

76.32 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective October 1, 2025.

77.1 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.16, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

77.2 Subd. 7. **Record-keeping requirement.** (a) As a condition of payment, all providers
77.3 receiving child care assistance payments must:

77.4 (1) keep accurate and legible daily attendance records at the site where services are
77.5 delivered for children receiving child care assistance; ~~and~~

77.6 (2) make those records available immediately to the county or the commissioner upon
77.7 request. Any records not provided to a county or the commissioner at the date and time of
77.8 the request are deemed inadmissible if offered as evidence by the provider in any proceeding
77.9 to contest an overpayment or disqualification of the provider; and

77.10 (3) submit data on child enrollment and attendance in the form and manner specified by
77.11 the commissioner.

77.12 (b) As a condition of payment, attendance records must be completed daily and include
77.13 the date, the first and last name of each child in attendance, and the times when each child
77.14 is dropped off and picked up. To the extent possible, the times that the child was dropped
77.15 off to and picked up from the child care provider must be entered by the person dropping
77.16 off or picking up the child. The daily attendance records must be retained at the site where
77.17 services are delivered for six years after the date of service.

77.18 (c) When the county or the commissioner knows or has reason to believe that a current
77.19 or former provider has not complied with the record-keeping requirement in this subdivision:

77.20 (1) the commissioner may:

77.21 (i) deny or revoke a provider's authorization to receive child care assistance payments
77.22 under section 142E.17, subdivision 9, paragraph (d);

77.23 (ii) pursue an administrative disqualification under sections 142E.51, subdivision 5, and
77.24 256.98; or

77.25 (iii) take an action against the provider under ~~sections 142E.50 to 142E.58~~ section
77.26 142E.51; or

77.27 (2) a county or the commissioner may establish an attendance record overpayment under
77.28 paragraph (d).

77.29 (d) To calculate an attendance record overpayment under this subdivision, the
77.30 commissioner or county agency shall subtract the maximum daily rate from the total amount
77.31 paid to a provider for each day that a child's attendance record is missing, unavailable,
77.32 incomplete, inaccurate, or otherwise inadequate.

78.1 (e) The commissioner shall develop criteria for a county to determine an attendance
78.2 record overpayment under this subdivision.

78.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective June 22, 2026.

78.4 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.17, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

78.5 Subd. 9. **Provider payments.** (a) A provider shall bill only for services documented
78.6 according to section 142E.16, subdivision 7. The provider shall bill for services provided
78.7 within ten days of the end of the service period. A provider must sign each bill and declare,
78.8 under penalty of perjury as provided in section 609.48, that the information in the bill is
78.9 true and correct. Payments under the child care fund shall be made within 21 days of
78.10 receiving a complete bill from the provider. Counties or the state may establish policies that
78.11 make payments on a more frequent basis.

78.12 (b) If a provider has received an authorization of care and been issued a billing form for
78.13 an eligible family, the bill must be submitted within 60 days of the last date of service on
78.14 the bill. A bill submitted more than 60 days after the last date of service must be paid if the
78.15 county determines that the provider has shown good cause why the bill was not submitted
78.16 within 60 days. Good cause must be defined in the county's child care fund plan under
78.17 section 142E.09, subdivision 3, and the definition of good cause must include county error.
78.18 Any bill submitted more than a year after the last date of service on the bill must not be
78.19 paid.

78.20 (c) If a provider provided care for a time period without receiving an authorization of
78.21 care and a billing form for an eligible family, payment of child care assistance may only be
78.22 made retroactively for a maximum of three months from the date the provider is issued an
78.23 authorization of care and a billing form. For a family at application, if a provider provided
78.24 child care during a time period without receiving an authorization of care and a billing form,
78.25 a county may only make child care assistance payments to the provider retroactively from
78.26 the date that child care began, or from the date that the family's eligibility began under
78.27 section 142E.10, subdivision 7, or from the date that the family meets authorization
78.28 requirements, not to exceed six months from the date that the provider is issued an
78.29 authorization of care and a billing form, whichever is later.

78.30 (d) The commissioner may refuse to issue a child care authorization to a certified,
78.31 licensed, or legal nonlicensed provider; revoke an existing child care authorization to a
78.32 certified, licensed, or legal nonlicensed provider; stop payment issued to a certified, licensed,
78.33 or legal nonlicensed provider; or refuse to pay a bill submitted by a certified, licensed, or
78.34 legal nonlicensed provider if:

79.1 (1) the provider admits to intentionally giving the county materially false information
79.2 on the provider's billing forms;

79.3 (2) the commissioner finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the provider
79.4 intentionally gave the county materially false information on the provider's billing forms,
79.5 or provided false attendance records to a county or the commissioner;

79.6 (3) the provider is in violation of child care assistance program rules, until the agency
79.7 determines those violations have been corrected;

79.8 (4) the provider is operating after:

79.9 (i) an order of suspension of the provider's license issued by the commissioner;

79.10 (ii) an order of revocation of the provider's license issued by the commissioner; or

79.11 (iii) an order of decertification issued to the provider;

79.12 (5) the provider submits false attendance reports or refuses to provide documentation
79.13 of the child's attendance upon request;

79.14 (6) the provider gives false child care price information; or

79.15 (7) the provider fails to report decreases in a child's attendance as required under section
79.16 142E.16, subdivision 9.

79.17 (e) For purposes of paragraph (d), clauses (3), (5), (6), and (7), the commissioner may
79.18 withhold the provider's authorization or payment for a period of time not to exceed three
79.19 months beyond the time the condition has been corrected.

79.20 (f) A county's payment policies must be included in the county's child care plan under
79.21 section 142E.09, subdivision 3. If payments are made by the state, in addition to being in
79.22 compliance with this subdivision, the payments must be made in compliance with section
79.23 16A.124.

79.24 (g) If the commissioner suspends or refuses payment to a provider under paragraph (d),
79.25 clause (1) or (2), or sections 142E.50 to 142E.58 and the provider has:

79.26 (1) a disqualification for wrongfully obtaining assistance under section 256.98,
79.27 subdivision 8, paragraph (c);

79.28 (2) an administrative disqualification under section 142E.51, subdivision 5; or

79.29 (3) a termination under section 142E.51, subdivision 4, paragraph (c), clause (4), or
79.30 142E.55;

80.1 then the provider forfeits the payment to the commissioner or the responsible county agency,
 80.2 regardless of the amount assessed in an overpayment, charged in a criminal complaint, or
 80.3 ordered as criminal restitution.

80.4 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2025.

80.5 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245.0962, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

80.6 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of ~~human services~~ children, youth,
 80.7 and families must establish a quality parenting initiative grant program to implement quality
 80.8 parenting initiative principles and practices to support children and families experiencing
 80.9 foster care placements.

80.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2025.

80.11 Sec. 15. **ELIMINATING SCHEDULE REPORTER DESIGNATION.**

80.12 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 142E.04, subdivisions 6, 7, and 8, the
 80.13 commissioner of children, youth, and families must allocate additional basic sliding fee
 80.14 child care money for calendar years 2026 and 2027 to counties and Tribes to account for
 80.15 eliminating the schedule reporter designation in the child care assistance program. In
 80.16 allocating the additional money, the commissioner shall consider:

80.17 (1) the number of children who are in schedule reporter families; and

80.18 (2) the average basic sliding fee cost of care in the county or Tribe.

80.19 Sec. 16. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

80.20 The revisor of statutes shall renumber Minnesota Statutes, section 245.0962, as Minnesota
 80.21 Statutes, section 142A.47. The revisor shall also make necessary cross-reference changes
 80.22 consistent with the renumbering.

80.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2025.

80.24 Sec. 17. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

80.25 The revisor of statutes shall renumber Minnesota Statutes, section 142D.12, subdivision
 80.26 3, as Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.121. The revisor shall also make necessary
 80.27 cross-reference changes consistent with the renumbering.

81.1

ARTICLE 6

81.2

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

81.3

LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION POLICY

81.4 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.10, subdivision 14, is amended to read:

81.5 Subd. 14. **Grant of license; license extension.** (a) If the commissioner determines that
81.6 the program complies with all applicable rules and laws, the commissioner shall issue a
81.7 license consistent with this section or, if applicable, a temporary change of ownership license
81.8 under section 142B.11. At minimum, the license shall state:

81.9 (1) the name of the license holder;

81.10 (2) the address of the program;

81.11 (3) the effective date and expiration date of the license;

81.12 (4) the type of license;

81.13 (5) the maximum number and ages of persons that may receive services from the program;

81.14 and

81.15 (6) any special conditions of licensure.

81.16 (b) The commissioner may issue a license for a period not to exceed two years if:

81.17 (1) the commissioner is unable to conduct the observation required by subdivision 11,
81.18 paragraph (a), clause (3), because the program is not yet operational;

81.19 (2) certain records and documents are not available because persons are not yet receiving
81.20 services from the program; and

81.21 (3) the applicant complies with applicable laws and rules in all other respects.

81.22 (c) A decision by the commissioner to issue a license does not guarantee that any person
81.23 or persons will be placed or cared for in the licensed program.

81.24 (d) Except as provided in paragraphs (i) and (j), the commissioner shall not issue a
81.25 license if the applicant, license holder, or an affiliated controlling individual has:

81.26 (1) been disqualified and the disqualification was not set aside and no variance has been
81.27 granted;

81.28 (2) been denied a license under this chapter or chapter 245A within the past two years;

81.29 (3) had a license issued under this chapter or chapter 245A revoked within the past five
81.30 years; or

82.1 (4) failed to submit the information required of an applicant under subdivision 1,
82.2 paragraph (f), (g), or (h), after being requested by the commissioner.

82.3 When a license issued under this chapter or chapter 245A is revoked, the license holder
82.4 and each affiliated controlling individual with a revoked license may not hold any license
82.5 under chapter 142B for five years following the revocation, and other licenses held by the
82.6 applicant or license holder or licenses affiliated with each controlling individual shall also
82.7 be revoked.

82.8 (e) Notwithstanding paragraph (d), the commissioner may elect not to revoke a license
82.9 affiliated with a license holder or controlling individual that had a license revoked within
82.10 the past five years if the commissioner determines that (1) the license holder or controlling
82.11 individual is operating the program in substantial compliance with applicable laws and rules
82.12 and (2) the program's continued operation is in the best interests of the community being
82.13 served.

82.14 (f) Notwithstanding paragraph (d), the commissioner may issue a new license in response
82.15 to an application that is affiliated with an applicant, license holder, or controlling individual
82.16 that had an application denied within the past two years or a license revoked within the past
82.17 five years if the commissioner determines that (1) the applicant or controlling individual
82.18 has operated one or more programs in substantial compliance with applicable laws and rules
82.19 and (2) the program's operation would be in the best interests of the community to be served.

82.20 (g) In determining whether a program's operation would be in the best interests of the
82.21 community to be served, the commissioner shall consider factors such as the number of
82.22 persons served, the availability of alternative services available in the surrounding
82.23 community, the management structure of the program, whether the program provides
82.24 culturally specific services, and other relevant factors.

82.25 (h) The commissioner shall not issue or reissue a license under this chapter if an individual
82.26 living in the household where the services will be provided as specified under section
82.27 245C.03, subdivision 1, has been disqualified and the disqualification has not been set aside
82.28 and no variance has been granted.

82.29 (i) Pursuant to section 142B.18, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), when a license issued
82.30 under this chapter has been suspended or revoked and the suspension or revocation is under
82.31 appeal, the program may continue to operate pending a final order from the commissioner.
82.32 If the license under suspension or revocation will expire before a final order is issued, a
82.33 temporary provisional license may be issued provided any applicable license fee is paid
82.34 before the temporary provisional license is issued.

83.1 (j) Notwithstanding paragraph (i), when a revocation is based on the disqualification of
83.2 a controlling individual or license holder, and the controlling individual or license holder
83.3 is ordered under section 245C.17 to be immediately removed from direct contact with
83.4 persons receiving services or is ordered to be under continuous, direct supervision when
83.5 providing direct contact services, the program may continue to operate only if the program
83.6 complies with the order and submits documentation demonstrating compliance with the
83.7 order. If the disqualified individual fails to submit a timely request for reconsideration, or
83.8 if the disqualification is not set aside and no variance is granted, the order to immediately
83.9 remove the individual from direct contact or to be under continuous, direct supervision
83.10 remains in effect pending the outcome of a hearing and final order from the commissioner.

83.11 (k) For purposes of reimbursement for meals only, under the Child and Adult Care Food
83.12 Program, Code of Federal Regulations, title 7, subtitle B, chapter II, subchapter A, part 226,
83.13 relocation within the same county by a licensed family day care provider, shall be considered
83.14 an extension of the license for a period of no more than 30 calendar days or until the new
83.15 license is issued, whichever occurs first, provided the county agency has determined the
83.16 family day care provider meets licensure requirements at the new location.

83.17 (l) Unless otherwise specified by statute, all licenses issued under this chapter expire at
83.18 12:01 a.m. on the day after the expiration date stated on the license. A license holder must
83.19 ~~apply for and be granted~~ comply with the requirements in section 142B.12 and be reissued
83.20 a new license to operate the program or the program must not be operated after the expiration
83.21 date. Child foster care license holders must apply for and be granted a new license to operate
83.22 the program or the program must not be operated after the expiration date. Upon
83.23 implementation of the provider licensing and reporting hub, licenses may be issued each
83.24 calendar year.

83.25 (m) The commissioner shall not issue or reissue a license under this chapter if it has
83.26 been determined that a tribal licensing authority has established jurisdiction to license the
83.27 program or service.

83.28 (n) The commissioner of children, youth, and families shall coordinate and share data
83.29 with the commissioner of human services to enforce this section.

83.30 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.10, subdivision 16, is amended to read:

83.31 Subd. 16. **Variances.** (a) The commissioner may grant variances to rules that do not
83.32 affect the health or safety of persons in a licensed program if the following conditions are
83.33 met:

84.1 (1) the variance must be requested by an applicant or license holder on a form and in a
84.2 manner prescribed by the commissioner;

84.3 (2) the request for a variance must include the reasons that the applicant or license holder
84.4 cannot comply with a requirement as stated in the rule and the alternative equivalent measures
84.5 that the applicant or license holder will follow to comply with the intent of the rule; and

84.6 (3) the request must state the period of time for which the variance is requested.

84.7 The commissioner may grant a permanent variance when conditions under which the variance
84.8 is requested do not affect the health or safety of persons being served by the licensed program,
84.9 nor compromise the qualifications of staff to provide services. The permanent variance shall
84.10 expire as soon as the conditions that warranted the variance are modified in any way. Any
84.11 applicant or license holder must inform the commissioner of any changes or modifications
84.12 that have occurred in the conditions that warranted the permanent variance. Failure to advise
84.13 the commissioner shall result in revocation of the permanent variance and may be cause for
84.14 other sanctions under sections 142B.17 and 142B.18.

84.15 The commissioner's decision to grant or deny a variance request is final and not subject to
84.16 appeal under the provisions of chapter 14.

84.17 (b) The commissioner shall consider variances for child care center staff qualification
84.18 requirements under Minnesota Rules, parts 9503.0032 and 9503.0033, that do not affect
84.19 the health and safety of children served by the center. A variance request must be submitted
84.20 to the commissioner in accordance with paragraph (a) and must include a plan for the staff
84.21 person to gain additional experience, education, or training, as requested by the commissioner.
84.22 When reviewing a variance request under this section, the commissioner shall consider the
84.23 staff person's level of professional development, including but not limited to steps completed
84.24 on the Minnesota career lattice.

84.25 (c) The commissioner must grant a variance for a child care program's licensed capacity
84.26 limit if:

84.27 (1) the program's indoor space is within 100 square feet of what would be required for
84.28 maximum enrollment in the program based on the program's number and qualifications of
84.29 staff;

84.30 (2) the fire marshall approves the variance; and

84.31 (3) the applicant or license holder submits the variance request to the commissioner in
84.32 accordance with paragraph (a).

85.1 For purposes of this paragraph, a "child care program" means a child care center or family
85.2 or group family child care provider licensed under this chapter and Minnesota Rules, chapter
85.3 9502 or 9503.

85.4 ~~(e)~~ (d) Counties shall use a uniform application form developed by the commissioner
85.5 for variance requests by family child care license holders.

85.6 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.16, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

85.7 Subd. 2. **Reconsideration of correction orders.** (a) If the applicant or license holder
85.8 believes that the contents of the commissioner's correction order are in error, the applicant
85.9 or license holder may ask the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to reconsider
85.10 the parts of the correction order that are alleged to be in error. The request for reconsideration
85.11 must be made in writing and must be postmarked and sent to the commissioner within 20
85.12 calendar days after receipt of the correction order under this paragraph, or receipt of the
85.13 interpretive guidance under paragraph (d), by the applicant or license holder or submitted
85.14 in the provider licensing and reporting hub within 20 calendar days from the date the
85.15 commissioner issued the order under this paragraph, or provided the interpretive guidance
85.16 under paragraph (d), through the hub, and:

85.17 (1) specify the parts of the correction order that are alleged to be in error;

85.18 (2) explain why they are in error; and

85.19 (3) include documentation to support the allegation of error.

85.20 (b) Upon implementation of the provider licensing and reporting hub, the provider must
85.21 use the hub to request reconsideration under this paragraph, or to request interpretive guidance
85.22 under paragraph (d). A request for reconsideration does not stay any provisions or
85.23 requirements of the correction order. The commissioner's disposition of a request for
85.24 reconsideration is final and not subject to appeal under chapter 14.

85.25 ~~(b)~~ (c) This paragraph applies only to licensed family child care providers. A licensed
85.26 family child care provider who requests reconsideration of a correction order under paragraph
85.27 (a) may also request, on a form and in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, that the
85.28 commissioner expedite the review if:

85.29 (1) the provider is challenging a violation and provides a description of how complying
85.30 with the corrective action for that violation would require the substantial expenditure of
85.31 funds or a significant change to their program; and

86.1 (2) describes what actions the provider will take in lieu of the corrective action ordered
86.2 to ensure the health and safety of children in care pending the commissioner's review of the
86.3 correction order.

86.4 (d) Prior to a request for reconsideration under paragraph (a), if the applicant or license
86.5 holder believes that the applicable rule or statute is ambiguous or the commissioner's
86.6 interpretation of the applicable rule or statute is in error, the applicant or license holder may
86.7 ask the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to provide interpretive guidance on
86.8 the applicable rule or statute underlying the correction order.

86.9 (e) The commissioner must not publicly post the correction order for licensed child care
86.10 centers or licensed family child care providers on the department's website until:

86.11 (1) after the 20-calendar-day period for requesting reconsideration; or

86.12 (2) if the applicant or license holder requested reconsideration, after the commissioner's
86.13 disposition of a request for reconsideration is provided to the applicant or license holder.

86.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2025, except that paragraph (e)
86.15 is effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval, whichever is later. The commissioner
86.16 of children, youth, and families must notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is
86.17 obtained.

86.18 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.16, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

86.19 Subd. 5. **Requirement to post conditional license.** For licensed family child care
86.20 providers and child care centers, upon receipt of any order of conditional license issued by
86.21 the commissioner under this section, and notwithstanding a pending request for
86.22 reconsideration of the order of conditional license by the license holder, the license holder
86.23 shall post the order of conditional license in a place that is conspicuous to the people receiving
86.24 services and all visitors to the facility for two years. When the order of conditional license
86.25 is accompanied by a maltreatment investigation memorandum prepared under section
86.26 626.557 or chapter 260E, the investigation memoranda must be posted with the order of
86.27 conditional license, and the license holder must post both in a place that is conspicuous to
86.28 the people receiving services and all visitors to the facility for ten years.

86.29 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.171, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

86.30 Subd. 2. **Documented technical assistance.** (a) In lieu of a correction order under section
86.31 142B.16, the commissioner shall provide documented technical assistance to a family child
86.32 care or child care center license holder if the commissioner finds that:

87.1 (1) the license holder has failed to comply with a requirement in this chapter or Minnesota
 87.2 Rules, chapter 9502 or 9503, that the commissioner determines to be low risk as determined
 87.3 by the child care weighted risk system;

87.4 (2) the noncompliance does not imminently endanger the health, safety, or rights of the
 87.5 persons served by the program; and

87.6 (3) the license holder did not receive documented technical assistance or a correction
 87.7 order for the same violation at the license holder's most recent annual licensing inspection.

87.8 (b) Documented technical assistance must include communication from the commissioner
 87.9 to the license holder that:

87.10 (1) states the conditions that constitute a violation of a law or rule;

87.11 (2) references the specific law or rule violated; and

87.12 (3) explains remedies for correcting the violation.

87.13 ~~(e) The commissioner shall not publicly publish documented technical assistance on the~~
 87.14 ~~department's website.~~

87.15 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.18, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

87.16 Subd. 6. **Requirement to post licensing order or fine.** For licensed family child care
 87.17 providers and child care centers, upon receipt of any order of license suspension, temporary
 87.18 immediate suspension, fine, or revocation issued by the commissioner under this section,
 87.19 and notwithstanding a pending appeal of the order of license suspension, temporary
 87.20 immediate suspension, fine, or revocation by the license holder, the license holder shall
 87.21 post the order of license suspension, temporary immediate suspension, fine, or revocation
 87.22 in a place that is conspicuous to the people receiving services and all visitors to the facility
 87.23 for two years. When the order of license suspension, temporary immediate suspension, fine,
 87.24 or revocation is accompanied by a maltreatment investigation memorandum prepared under
 87.25 section 626.557 or chapter 260E, the investigation memoranda must be posted with the
 87.26 order of license suspension, temporary immediate suspension, fine, or revocation, and the
 87.27 license holder must post both in a place that is conspicuous to the people receiving services
 87.28 and all visitors to the facility for ten years.

88.1 **Sec. 7. [142B.181] POSTING LICENSING ACTIONS ON DEPARTMENT**
 88.2 **WEBSITE.**

88.3 (a) The commissioner must post a summary document for each licensing action issued
 88.4 to a licensed child care center and family child care provider on the Licensing Information
 88.5 Lookup public website maintained by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.
 88.6 The commissioner must not post any communication, including letters, from the
 88.7 commissioner to the center or provider.

88.8 (b) The commissioner must remove a summary document from the Licensing Information
 88.9 Lookup public website within ten days of the length of time that the document is required
 88.10 to be posted under Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, section 98.33.

88.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026, or upon federal approval,
 88.12 whichever is later. The commissioner of children, youth, and families must notify the revisor
 88.13 of statutes when federal approval is obtained.

88.14 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.30, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

88.15 Subdivision 1. **Delegation of authority to agencies.** (a) County agencies and private
 88.16 agencies that have been designated or licensed by the commissioner to perform licensing
 88.17 functions and activities under section 142B.10; to recommend denial of applicants under
 88.18 section 142B.15; to issue correction orders, to issue variances, and to recommend a
 88.19 conditional license under section 142B.16; or to recommend suspending or revoking a
 88.20 license or issuing a fine under section 142B.18, shall comply with rules and directives of
 88.21 the commissioner governing those functions and with this section. The following variances
 88.22 are excluded from the delegation of variance authority and may be issued only by the
 88.23 commissioner:

88.24 (1) dual licensure of family child care and family child foster care;

88.25 (2) child foster care maximum age requirement;

88.26 (3) variances regarding disqualified individuals;

88.27 (4) variances to requirements relating to chemical use problems of a license holder or a
 88.28 household member of a license holder; and

88.29 (5) variances to section 142B.74 for a time-limited period. If the commissioner grants
 88.30 a variance under this clause, the license holder must provide notice of the variance to all
 88.31 parents and guardians of the children in care.

89.1 (b) The commissioners of human services and children, youth, and families must both
89.2 approve a variance for dual licensure of family child foster care and family adult foster care
89.3 or family adult foster care and family child care. Variances under this paragraph are excluded
89.4 from the delegation of variance authority and may be issued only by both commissioners.

89.5 (c) Except as provided in section 142B.41, subdivision 4, paragraph (e), a county agency
89.6 must not grant a license holder a variance to exceed the maximum allowable family child
89.7 care license capacity of 14 children.

89.8 (d) A county agency that has been designated by the commissioner to issue family child
89.9 care variances must:

89.10 (1) publish the county agency's policies and criteria for issuing variances on the county's
89.11 public website and update the policies as necessary; and

89.12 (2) annually distribute the county agency's policies and criteria for issuing variances to
89.13 all family child care license holders in the county.

89.14 (e) Before the implementation of NETStudy 2.0, county agencies must report information
89.15 about disqualification reconsiderations under sections 245C.25 and 245C.27, subdivision
89.16 2, paragraphs (a) and (b), and variances granted under paragraph (a), clause (5), to the
89.17 commissioner at least monthly in a format prescribed by the commissioner.

89.18 (f) For family child care programs, the commissioner shall require a county agency to
89.19 conduct one unannounced licensing review at least annually.

89.20 (g) A child foster care license issued under this section may be issued for up to two years
89.21 until implementation of the provider licensing and reporting hub. Upon implementation of
89.22 the provider licensing and reporting hub, licenses may be issued each calendar year.

89.23 (h) A county agency shall report to the commissioner, in a manner prescribed by the
89.24 commissioner, the following information for a licensed family child care program:

89.25 (1) the results of each licensing review completed, including the date of the review, and
89.26 any licensing correction order issued;

89.27 (2) any death, serious injury, or determination of substantiated maltreatment; and

89.28 (3) any fires that require the service of a fire department within 48 hours of the fire. The
89.29 information under this clause must also be reported to the state fire marshal within two
89.30 business days of receiving notice from a licensed family child care provider.

90.1 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.41, is amended by adding a subdivision to
90.2 read:

90.3 Subd. 7a. **Staff distribution.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0040, subpart
90.4 2, item B, an aide may substitute for a teacher during morning arrival and afternoon departure
90.5 times in a licensed child care center if the total arrival and departure time does not exceed
90.6 25 percent of the center's daily hours of operation. In order for an aide to be used in this
90.7 capacity, an aide must:

90.8 (1) be at least 18 years of age;

90.9 (2) have worked in the licensed child care center for a minimum of 30 days; and

90.10 (3) have completed all preservice and first-90-days training required for licensing.

90.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2025.

90.12 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.51, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

90.13 Subd. 2. **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.** (a) Programs
90.14 licensed by the Department of Human Services under chapter 245A or the Department of
90.15 Children, Youth, and Families under this chapter and Minnesota Rules, chapter 2960, that
90.16 serve a child or children under ~~eight~~ nine years of age must document training that fulfills
90.17 the requirements in this subdivision.

90.18 (b) Before a license holder, staff person, or caregiver transports a child or children under
90.19 age ~~eight~~ nine in a motor vehicle, the person transporting the child must satisfactorily
90.20 complete training on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor
90.21 vehicles. Training completed under this section may be used to meet initial or ongoing
90.22 training under Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3070, subparts 1 and 2.

90.23 (c) Training required under this section must be completed at orientation or initial training
90.24 and repeated at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training must address the
90.25 proper use of child restraint systems based on the child's size, weight, and age, and the
90.26 proper installation of a car seat or booster seat in the motor vehicle used by the license
90.27 holder to transport the child or children.

90.28 (d) Training under paragraph (c) must be provided by individuals who are certified and
90.29 approved by the Office of Traffic Safety within the Department of Public Safety. License
90.30 holders may obtain a list of certified and approved trainers through the Department of Public
90.31 Safety website or by contacting the agency.

91.1 ~~(e) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), for an emergency relative placement under section~~
 91.2 ~~142B.06, the commissioner may grant a variance to the training required by this subdivision~~
 91.3 ~~for a relative who completes a child seat safety check up. The child seat safety check up~~
 91.4 ~~trainer must be approved by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, and~~
 91.5 ~~must provide one-on-one instruction on placing a child of a specific age in the exact child~~
 91.6 ~~passenger restraint in the motor vehicle in which the child will be transported. Once granted~~
 91.7 ~~a variance, and if all other licensing requirements are met, the relative applicant may receive~~
 91.8 ~~a license and may transport a relative foster child younger than eight years of age. A child~~
 91.9 ~~seat safety check up must be completed each time a child requires a different size car seat~~
 91.10 ~~according to car seat and vehicle manufacturer guidelines. A relative license holder must~~
 91.11 ~~complete training that meets the other requirements of this subdivision prior to placement~~
 91.12 ~~of another foster child younger than eight years of age in the home or prior to the renewal~~
 91.13 ~~of the child foster care license.~~

91.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026, except paragraph (e),
 91.15 which is effective July 1, 2026.

91.16 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.65, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

91.17 Subd. 8. **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.** (a) Before a license
 91.18 holder transports a child or children under age ~~eight~~ nine in a motor vehicle, the person
 91.19 placing the child or children in a passenger restraint must satisfactorily complete training
 91.20 on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles.

91.21 (b) Training required under this subdivision must be repeated at least once every five
 91.22 years. At a minimum, the training must address the proper use of child restraint systems
 91.23 based on the child's size, weight, and age, and the proper installation of a car seat or booster
 91.24 seat in the motor vehicle used by the license holder to transport the child or children.

91.25 (c) Training required under this subdivision must be provided by individuals who are
 91.26 certified and approved by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety. License
 91.27 holders may obtain a list of certified and approved trainers through the Department of Public
 91.28 Safety website or by contacting the agency.

91.29 (d) Child care providers that only transport school-age children as defined in section
 91.30 142B.01, subdivision 25, in child care buses as defined in section 169.448, subdivision 1,
 91.31 paragraph (e), are exempt from this subdivision.

92.1 (e) Training completed under this subdivision may be used to meet in-service training
 92.2 requirements under subdivision 9. Training completed within the previous five years is
 92.3 transferable upon a staff person's change in employment to another child care center.

92.4 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

92.5 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.65, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

92.6 Subd. 9. **In-service training.** (a) A license holder must ensure that the center director,
 92.7 staff persons, substitutes, and unsupervised volunteers complete in-service training each
 92.8 calendar year.

92.9 (b) The center director and staff persons who work more than 20 hours per week must
 92.10 complete 24 hours of in-service training each calendar year. Staff persons who work 20
 92.11 hours or less per week must complete 12 hours of in-service training each calendar year.
 92.12 Substitutes and unsupervised volunteers must complete at least two hours of training each
 92.13 year, and the training must include the requirements of paragraphs (d) to (g) and do not
 92.14 otherwise have a minimum number of hours of training to complete.

92.15 (c) The number of in-service training hours may be prorated for ~~individuals~~ center
 92.16 directors and staff persons not employed for an entire year.

92.17 (d) Each year, in-service training must include:

92.18 (1) the center's procedures for maintaining health and safety according to section 142B.66
 92.19 and Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0140, and handling emergencies and accidents according
 92.20 to Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0110;

92.21 (2) the reporting responsibilities under chapter 260E and Minnesota Rules, part
 92.22 9503.0130;

92.23 (3) at least one-half hour of training on the standards under section 142B.46 and on
 92.24 reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death as required under subdivision 6, if
 92.25 applicable; and

92.26 (4) at least one-half hour of training on the risk of abusive head trauma from shaking
 92.27 infants and young children as required under subdivision 7, if applicable.

92.28 (e) Each year, or when a change is made, whichever is more frequent, in-service training
 92.29 must be provided on: (1) the center's risk reduction plan under section 142B.54, subdivision
 92.30 2; and (2) a child's individual child care program plan as required under Minnesota Rules,
 92.31 part 9503.0065, subpart 3.

92.32 (f) At least once every two calendar years, the in-service training must include:

- 93.1 (1) child development and learning training under subdivision 3;
- 93.2 (2) pediatric first aid that meets the requirements of subdivision 4;
- 93.3 (3) pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation training that meets the requirements of
93.4 subdivision 5;
- 93.5 (4) cultural dynamics training to increase awareness of cultural differences; and
- 93.6 (5) disabilities training to increase awareness of differing abilities of children.
- 93.7 (g) At least once every five years, in-service training must include child passenger
93.8 restraint training that meets the requirements of subdivision 8, if applicable.
- 93.9 (h) The remaining hours of the in-service training requirement must be met by completing
93.10 training in the following content areas of the Minnesota Knowledge and Competency
93.11 Framework:
- 93.12 (1) Content area I: child development and learning;
- 93.13 (2) Content area II: developmentally appropriate learning experiences;
- 93.14 (3) Content area III: relationships with families;
- 93.15 (4) Content area IV: assessment, evaluation, and individualization;
- 93.16 (5) Content area V: historical and contemporary development of early childhood
93.17 education;
- 93.18 (6) Content area VI: professionalism;
- 93.19 (7) Content area VII: health, safety, and nutrition; and
- 93.20 (8) Content area VIII: application through clinical experiences.
- 93.21 (i) For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the meanings given them.
- 93.22 (1) "Child development and learning training" means training in understanding how
93.23 children develop physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially and learn as part of the
93.24 children's family, culture, and community.
- 93.25 (2) "Developmentally appropriate learning experiences" means creating positive learning
93.26 experiences, promoting cognitive development, promoting social and emotional development,
93.27 promoting physical development, and promoting creative development.
- 93.28 (3) "Relationships with families" means training on building a positive, respectful
93.29 relationship with the child's family.

94.1 (4) "Assessment, evaluation, and individualization" means training in observing,
94.2 recording, and assessing development; assessing and using information to plan; and assessing
94.3 and using information to enhance and maintain program quality.

94.4 (5) "Historical and contemporary development of early childhood education" means
94.5 training in past and current practices in early childhood education and how current events
94.6 and issues affect children, families, and programs.

94.7 (6) "Professionalism" means training in knowledge, skills, and abilities that promote
94.8 ongoing professional development.

94.9 (7) "Health, safety, and nutrition" means training in establishing health practices, ensuring
94.10 safety, and providing healthy nutrition.

94.11 (8) "Application through clinical experiences" means clinical experiences in which a
94.12 person applies effective teaching practices using a range of educational programming models.

94.13 (j) The license holder must ensure that documentation, as required in subdivision 10,
94.14 includes the number of total training hours required to be completed, name of the training,
94.15 the Minnesota Knowledge and Competency Framework content area, number of hours
94.16 completed, and the director's approval of the training.

94.17 (k) In-service training completed by a staff person that is not specific to that child care
94.18 center is transferable upon a staff person's change in employment to another child care
94.19 program.

94.20 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.66, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

94.21 Subd. 3. **Emergency preparedness.** (a) A licensed child care center must have a written
94.22 emergency plan for emergencies that require evacuation, sheltering, or other protection of
94.23 a child, such as fire, natural disaster, intruder, or other threatening situation that may pose
94.24 a health or safety hazard to a child. The plan must be written on a form developed by the
94.25 commissioner and must include:

94.26 (1) procedures for an evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, or lockdown;

94.27 (2) a designated relocation site and evacuation route;

94.28 (3) procedures for notifying a child's parent or legal guardian of the evacuation, relocation,
94.29 shelter-in-place, or lockdown, including procedures for reunification with families;

94.30 (4) accommodations for a child with a disability or a chronic medical condition;

95.1 (5) procedures for storing a child's medically necessary medicine that facilitates easy
95.2 removal during an evacuation or relocation;

95.3 (6) procedures for continuing operations in the period during and after a crisis;

95.4 (7) procedures for communicating with local emergency management officials, law
95.5 enforcement officials, or other appropriate state or local authorities; and

95.6 (8) accommodations for infants and toddlers.

95.7 (b) The license holder must train staff persons on the emergency plan at orientation,
95.8 when changes are made to the plan, and at least once each calendar year. Training must be
95.9 documented in each staff person's personnel file.

95.10 (c) The license holder must conduct drills according to the requirements in Minnesota
95.11 Rules, part 9503.0110, subpart 3. The date and time of the drills must be documented.

95.12 (d) The license holder must review and update the emergency plan ~~annually~~ each calendar
95.13 year. Documentation of the ~~annual~~ yearly emergency plan review shall be maintained in
95.14 the program's administrative records.

95.15 (e) The license holder must include the emergency plan in the program's policies and
95.16 procedures as specified under section 142B.10, subdivision 21. The license holder must
95.17 provide a physical or electronic copy of the emergency plan to the child's parent or legal
95.18 guardian upon enrollment.

95.19 (f) The relocation site and evacuation route must be posted in a visible place as part of
95.20 the written procedures for emergencies and accidents in Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0140,
95.21 subpart 21.

95.22 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.70, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

95.23 Subd. 7. **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.** (a) A license
95.24 holder must comply with all seat belt and child passenger restraint system requirements
95.25 under section 169.685.

95.26 (b) Family and group family child care programs licensed by the Department of Children,
95.27 Youth, and Families that serve a child or children under ~~eight~~ nine years of age must
95.28 document training that fulfills the requirements in this subdivision.

95.29 (1) Before a license holder, second adult caregiver, substitute, or helper transports a
95.30 child or children under age ~~eight~~ nine in a motor vehicle, the person placing the child or
95.31 children in a passenger restraint must satisfactorily complete training on the proper use and
95.32 installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles. Training completed under this

96.1 subdivision may be used to meet initial training under subdivision 1 or ongoing training
96.2 under subdivision 8.

96.3 (2) Training required under this subdivision must be at least one hour in length, completed
96.4 at initial training, and repeated at least once every five years. At a minimum, the training
96.5 must address the proper use of child restraint systems based on the child's size, weight, and
96.6 age, and the proper installation of a car seat or booster seat in the motor vehicle used by the
96.7 license holder to transport the child or children.

96.8 (3) Training under this subdivision must be provided by individuals who are certified
96.9 and approved by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety. License holders
96.10 may obtain a list of certified and approved trainers through the Department of Public Safety
96.11 website or by contacting the agency.

96.12 (c) Child care providers that only transport school-age children as defined in section
96.13 142B.01, subdivision 13, paragraph (f), in child care buses as defined in section 169.448,
96.14 subdivision 1, paragraph (e), are exempt from this subdivision.

96.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

96.16 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142B.70, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

96.17 Subd. 8. **Training requirements for family and group family child care.** (a) For
96.18 purposes of family and group family child care, the license holder and each second adult
96.19 caregiver must complete 16 hours of ongoing training each year. Repeat of topical training
96.20 requirements in subdivisions 3 to 9 shall count toward the annual 16-hour training
96.21 requirement. Additional ongoing training subjects to meet the annual 16-hour training
96.22 requirement must be selected from the following areas:

96.23 (1) child development and learning training in understanding how a child develops
96.24 physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially, and how a child learns as part of the
96.25 child's family, culture, and community;

96.26 (2) developmentally appropriate learning experiences, including training in creating
96.27 positive learning experiences, promoting cognitive development, promoting social and
96.28 emotional development, promoting physical development, promoting creative development;
96.29 and behavior guidance;

96.30 (3) relationships with families, including training in building a positive, respectful
96.31 relationship with the child's family;

97.1 (4) assessment, evaluation, and individualization, including training in observing,
97.2 recording, and assessing development; assessing and using information to plan; and assessing
97.3 and using information to enhance and maintain program quality;

97.4 (5) historical and contemporary development of early childhood education, including
97.5 training in past and current practices in early childhood education and how current events
97.6 and issues affect children, families, and programs;

97.7 (6) professionalism, including training in knowledge, skills, and abilities that promote
97.8 ongoing professional development; and

97.9 (7) health, safety, and nutrition, including training in establishing healthy practices;
97.10 ensuring safety; and providing healthy nutrition.

97.11 (b) A provider who is approved as a trainer through the Develop data system may count
97.12 up to two hours of training instruction toward the annual 16-hour training requirement in
97.13 paragraph (a). The provider may only count training instruction hours for the first instance
97.14 in which they deliver a particular content-specific training during each licensing year. Hours
97.15 counted as training instruction must be approved through the Develop data system with
97.16 attendance verified on the trainer's individual learning record and must be in Knowledge
97.17 and Competency Framework content area VII A (Establishing Healthy Practices) or B
97.18 (Ensuring Safety).

97.19 (c) Substitutes and adult caregivers who provide care for 500 or fewer hours per year
97.20 must complete a minimum of one hour of training each calendar year, and the training must
97.21 include the requirements in subdivisions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9.

97.22 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142C.06, is amended by adding a subdivision
97.23 to read:

97.24 Subd. 4. **Requirement to post conditional certification.** Upon receipt of any order of
97.25 conditional certification issued by the commissioner under this section, and notwithstanding
97.26 a pending request for reconsideration of the order of conditional certification by the
97.27 certification holder, the certification holder shall post the order of conditional certification
97.28 in a place that is conspicuous to the people receiving services and all visitors to the facility
97.29 for the duration of the conditional certification. When the order of conditional certification
97.30 is accompanied by a maltreatment investigation memorandum prepared under chapter 260E,
97.31 the investigation memoranda must be posted with the order of conditional certification.

98.1 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142C.11, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

98.2 Subd. 8. **Required policies.** A certified center must have written policies for health and
98.3 safety items in subdivisions 1 to 6, 9, and 10.

98.4 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142C.12, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

98.5 Subdivision 1. **First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.** (a) Before having
98.6 unsupervised direct contact with a child, but within 90 days after the first date of direct
98.7 contact with a child, the director, all staff persons, substitutes, and unsupervised volunteers
98.8 must successfully complete pediatric first aid and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation
98.9 (CPR) training, unless the training has been completed within the previous two calendar
98.10 years. Staff must complete the pediatric first aid and pediatric CPR training at least every
98.11 other calendar year and the center must document the training in the staff person's personnel
98.12 record.

98.13 (b) Training completed under this subdivision may be used to meet the in-service training
98.14 requirements under subdivision 6.

98.15 (c) Training must include CPR and techniques for providing immediate care to people
98.16 experiencing life-threatening cardiac emergencies, choking, bleeding, fractures and sprains,
98.17 head injuries, poisoning, and burns. Training developed by the American Heart Association,
98.18 the American Red Cross, or another organization that uses nationally recognized,
98.19 evidence-based guidelines meets these requirements.

98.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

98.21 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142C.12, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

98.22 Subd. 6. **In-service training.** (a) The certified center must ensure that the director and
98.23 all staff persons, including substitutes and unsupervised volunteers, are trained at least once
98.24 each calendar year on health and safety requirements in this section and sections 142C.10,
98.25 142C.11, and 142C.13.

98.26 (b) The director and each staff person, not including substitutes, must complete at least
98.27 six hours of training each calendar year. Substitutes must complete at least two hours of
98.28 training each calendar year. Training required under paragraph (a) may be used toward the
98.29 hourly training requirements of this subdivision.

99.1 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245A.18, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

99.2 Subdivision 1. **Seat belt and child passenger restraint system use.** All license holders
99.3 that transport children must comply with the requirements of section 142B.51, subdivision
99.4 1, and license holders that transport a child or children under ~~eight~~ nine years of age must
99.5 document training that fulfills the requirements in section 142B.51, subdivision 2.

99.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

99.7 Sec. 21. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**
99.8 **FAMILIES; AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF EDUCATION.**

99.9 The commissioner of children, youth, and families must amend Minnesota Rules, part
99.10 9503.0030, subpart 1, item B, to include any accredited coursework from an accredited
99.11 postsecondary institution that can reasonably be shown to be relevant to any skill necessary
99.12 to meet the qualifications of a teacher.

99.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

99.14 Sec. 22. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**
99.15 **FAMILIES; STANDARDIZED LICENSING VISIT TIMELINE AND**
99.16 **REQUIREMENTS.**

99.17 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must, in consultation with
99.18 stakeholders, develop and implement a standardized timeline and standards for the conduct
99.19 of licensors when conducting inspections of licensed child care centers. The timeline and
99.20 standards developed by the commissioner must clearly identify:

99.21 (1) the steps of a licensing visit;

99.22 (2) the expectations for licensors and license holders before, during, and after the licensing
99.23 visit;

99.24 (3) the standards of conduct that licensors must follow during a visit;

99.25 (4) the rights of license holders;

99.26 (5) when and how license holders can request technical assistance; and

99.27 (6) a process for license holders to request additional review of an issue related to the
99.28 licensing visit from someone other than the assigned licensor.

99.29 (b) The timeline and standards must be implemented by January 1, 2026.

99.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

100.1 **Sec. 23. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**
 100.2 **FAMILIES; STANDARDIZED COUNTY-DELEGATED LICENSING.**

100.3 By January 1, 2026, the commissioner of children, youth, and families must:

100.4 (1) establish time frames for county licensors to respond to time-sensitive or urgent
 100.5 requests and implement a system to track response times to the requests; and

100.6 (2) require county licensors to use the electronic licensing inspection tool during an
 100.7 inspection of a family child care provider and to complete the inspection report on site with
 100.8 the license holder, including direct communication related to any correction orders issued.

100.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

100.10 **Sec. 24. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**
 100.11 **FAMILIES; AMENDING CAPACITY LIMITS.**

100.12 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must amend Minnesota Rules,
 100.13 part 9502.0365, subpart 1, item A, to exclude one of the caregiver's own children for the
 100.14 purposes of the licensed capacity, provided the excluded child is at least eight years old and
 100.15 the caregiver has never been determined to have maltreated a child or vulnerable adult under
 100.16 Minnesota Statutes, section 626.557 or chapter 260E.

100.17 (b) For purposes of this section and notwithstanding any other requirements for good
 100.18 cause exempt rulemaking, the commissioner may use the process under Minnesota Statutes,
 100.19 section 14.388, subdivision 1, clause (3), and Minnesota Statutes, section 14.386, does not
 100.20 apply except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388.

100.21 **ARTICLE 7**

100.22 **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**
 100.23 **APPROPRIATIONS**

100.24 **Section 1. CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES APPROPRIATIONS.**

100.25 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the
 100.26 commissioner of children, youth, and families for the purposes specified in this article. The
 100.27 appropriations are from the general fund, or another named fund, and are available for the
 100.28 fiscal years indicated for each purpose. The figures "2026" and "2027" used in this article
 100.29 mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending June
 100.30 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The second
 100.31 year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

101.1

APPROPRIATIONS

101.2

Available for the Year

101.3

Ending June 30

101.4

2026

2027

101.5

Sec. 2. **TOTAL APPROPRIATION**

\$

1,312,982,000

\$

1,341,630,000

101.6

Appropriations by Fund

101.7

2026

2027

101.8

General

1,084,822,000

1,093,008,000

101.9

State Government

101.10

Special Revenue

732,000

732,000

101.11

Federal TANF

227,428,000

247,890,000

101.12

The amounts that may be spent for each

101.13

purpose are specified in the following sections.

101.14

Sec. 3. **TANF MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT**

101.15

Subdivision 1. Nonfederal Expenditures

101.16

The commissioner shall ensure that sufficient

101.17

qualified nonfederal expenditures are made

101.18

each year to meet the state's maintenance of

101.19

effort requirements of the TANF block grant

101.20

specified under Code of Federal Regulations,

101.21

title 45, section 263.1. In order to meet these

101.22

basic TANF maintenance of effort

101.23

requirements, the commissioner may report

101.24

as TANF maintenance of effort expenditures

101.25

only nonfederal money expended for allowable

101.26

activities listed in the following clauses:

101.27

(1) MFIP cash, diversionary work program,

101.28

and food assistance benefits under Minnesota

101.29

Statutes, chapter 142G;

101.30

(2) the child care assistance programs under

101.31

Minnesota Statutes, sections 142E.04 and

101.32

142E.08, and county child care administrative

- 102.1 costs under Minnesota Statutes, section
102.2 142E.02, subdivision 9;
- 102.3 (3) state and county MFIP administrative costs
102.4 under Minnesota Statutes, chapters 142G and
102.5 256K;
- 102.6 (4) state, county, and Tribal MFIP
102.7 employment services under Minnesota
102.8 Statutes, chapters 142G and 256K;
- 102.9 (5) expenditures made on behalf of legal
102.10 noncitizen MFIP recipients who qualify for
102.11 the MinnesotaCare program under Minnesota
102.12 Statutes, chapter 256L;
- 102.13 (6) qualifying working family credit
102.14 expenditures under Minnesota Statutes, section
102.15 290.0671, and child tax credit expenditures
102.16 under Minnesota Statutes, section 290.0661;
- 102.17 (7) qualifying Minnesota education credit
102.18 expenditures under Minnesota Statutes, section
102.19 290.0674; and
- 102.20 (8) qualifying Head Start expenditures under
102.21 Minnesota Statutes, section 142D.12.
- 102.22 **Subd. 2. Nonfederal Expenditures; Reporting**
- 102.23 For the activities listed in subdivision 1,
102.24 clauses (2) to (8), the commissioner may
102.25 report only expenditures that are excluded
102.26 from the definition of assistance under Code
102.27 of Federal Regulations, title 45, section
102.28 260.31.
- 102.29 **Subd. 3. Supplemental Expenditures**
- 102.30 For the purposes of this section, the
102.31 commissioner may supplement the
102.32 maintenance of effort claim with working
102.33 family credit expenditures or other qualified

103.1 expenditures to the extent such expenditures
103.2 are otherwise available after considering the
103.3 expenditures allowed in this section.

103.4 **Subd. 4. Reduction of Appropriations; Exception**

103.5 The requirement in Minnesota Statutes, section
103.6 142A.06, subdivision 3, that federal grants or
103.7 aids secured or obtained under that subdivision
103.8 be used to reduce any direct appropriations
103.9 provided by law does not apply if the grants
103.10 or aids are federal TANF funds.

103.11 **Subd. 5. IT Appropriations Generally**

103.12 This appropriation includes funds for
103.13 information technology projects, services, and
103.14 support. Funding for information technology
103.15 project costs must be incorporated into the
103.16 service level agreement and paid to Minnesota
103.17 IT Services by the Department of Children,
103.18 Youth, and Families under the rates and
103.19 mechanism specified in that agreement.

103.20 **Subd. 6. Receipts for Systems Project**

103.21 Appropriations and federal receipts for
103.22 information technology systems projects for
103.23 MAXIS, PRISM, MMIS, ISDS, METS, and
103.24 SSIS must be deposited in the state systems
103.25 account authorized in Minnesota Statutes,
103.26 section 142A.04. Money appropriated for
103.27 information technology projects approved by
103.28 the commissioner of Minnesota IT Services
103.29 funded by the legislature, and approved by the
103.30 commissioner of management and budget may
103.31 be transferred from one project to another and
103.32 from development to operations as the
103.33 commissioner of children, youth, and families
103.34 considers necessary. Any unexpended balance

104.1 in the appropriation for these projects does not
 104.2 cancel and is available for ongoing
 104.3 development and operations.

104.4 Subd. 7. **Federal SNAP Education and Training**
 104.5 **Grants**

104.6 Federal funds available during fiscal years
 104.7 2026 and 2027 for Supplemental Nutrition
 104.8 Assistance Program Education and Training
 104.9 and SNAP Quality Control Performance
 104.10 Bonus grants are appropriated to the
 104.11 commissioner of human services for the
 104.12 purposes allowable under the terms of the
 104.13 federal award. This subdivision is effective
 104.14 the day following final enactment.

104.15 Sec. 4. **CENTRAL OFFICE; AGENCY**
 104.16 **SUPPORTS**

104.17 Subdivision 1. **Total Appropriation** **\$** **138,918,000** **\$** **101,945,000**

104.18 Appropriations by Fund

104.19		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
104.20	<u>General</u>	<u>138,086,000</u>	<u>101,113,000</u>
104.21	<u>State Government</u>		
104.22	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>732,000</u>	<u>732,000</u>
104.23	<u>Federal TANF</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>

104.24 Subd. 2. **Information Technology**

104.25 \$40,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 is for
 104.26 information technology improvements to
 104.27 SSIS. The appropriation must be used to
 104.28 develop and implement a modernization plan
 104.29 for SSIS that addresses priorities established
 104.30 through collaborative planning with counties
 104.31 and Tribal Nations that use SSIS. Priorities
 104.32 must take into consideration available funding
 104.33 and have a direct impact on child welfare
 104.34 casework. The appropriation must not be used
 104.35 for changes to SSIS that are not part of the

105.1 child welfare modernization plan. This is a
 105.2 onetime appropriation.

105.3 **Subd. 3. Base Level Adjustment**

105.4 The general fund base is \$95,066,000 in fiscal
 105.5 year 2028 and \$95,066,000 in fiscal year 2029.

105.6 **Sec. 5. CENTRAL OFFICE; CHILD SAFETY**
 105.7 **AND PERMANENCY**

\$ 17,232,000 \$ 16,945,000

105.8 **Sec. 6. CENTRAL OFFICE; EARLY**
 105.9 **CHILDHOOD**

\$ 17,212,000 \$ 13,337,000

105.10 **Subdivision 1. Child Care Attendance and**
 105.11 **Record-Keeping System**

105.12 \$5,555,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,639,000
 105.13 in fiscal year 2027 are to develop a statewide
 105.14 electronic attendance and record-keeping
 105.15 system for the child care assistance program.

105.16 The system must provide the commissioner,
 105.17 county agencies, and Tribal Nations that
 105.18 administer the program with real-time access
 105.19 to electronic attendance records to verify
 105.20 children's enrollment in the program. This is
 105.21 a onetime appropriation.

105.22 **Subd. 2. Base Level Adjustment**

105.23 The general fund base is \$11,698,000 in fiscal
 105.24 year 2028 and \$11,698,000 in fiscal year 2029.

105.25 **Sec. 7. CENTRAL OFFICE; ECONOMIC**
 105.26 **OPPORTUNITIES AND YOUTH SERVICES**

\$ 3,852,000 \$ 3,562,000

105.27 **Sec. 8. CENTRAL OFFICE; FAMILY**
 105.28 **WELL-BEING**

\$ 14,147,000 \$ 14,147,000

105.29 Appropriations by Fund

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
105.30		
105.31 <u>General</u>	<u>10,471,000</u>	<u>10,471,000</u>
105.32 <u>Federal TANF</u>	<u>3,676,000</u>	<u>3,676,000</u>

105.33 **Sec. 9. FORECASTED PROGRAMS;**
 105.34 **MFIP/DWP**

\$ 230,473,000 \$ 268,167,000

106.1	<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>		
106.2		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
106.3	<u>General</u>	<u>103,272,000</u>	<u>120,504,000</u>
106.4	<u>Federal TANF</u>	<u>127,201,000</u>	<u>147,663,000</u>
106.5	Sec. 10. <u>FORECASTED PROGRAMS; MFIP</u>		
106.6	<u>CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE</u>	\$ <u>100,224,000</u>	\$ <u>137,333,000</u>
106.7	Sec. 11. <u>FORECASTED PROGRAMS;</u>		
106.8	<u>NORTHSTAR CARE FOR CHILDREN</u>	\$ <u>110,214,000</u>	\$ <u>116,160,000</u>
106.9	Sec. 12. <u>GRANT PROGRAMS; SUPPORT</u>		
106.10	<u>SERVICES GRANTS</u>	\$ <u>111,359,000</u>	\$ <u>111,359,000</u>
106.11	<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>		
106.12		<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
106.13	<u>General</u>	<u>14,908,000</u>	<u>14,908,000</u>
106.14	<u>Federal TANF</u>	<u>96,451,000</u>	<u>96,451,000</u>
106.15	Sec. 13. <u>GRANT PROGRAMS; BASIC</u>		
106.16	<u>SLIDING FEE CHILD ASSISTANCE CARE</u>		
106.17	<u>GRANTS</u>	\$ <u>137,768,000</u>	\$ <u>135,212,000</u>
106.18	Sec. 14. <u>GRANT PROGRAMS; CHILD CARE</u>		
106.19	<u>DEVELOPMENT GRANTS</u>	\$ <u>139,319,000</u>	\$ <u>138,819,000</u>
106.20	<u>\$500,000 in fiscal year 2026 is from the</u>		
106.21	<u>general fund for child care provider access to</u>		
106.22	<u>technology grants under Minnesota Statutes,</u>		
106.23	<u>section 142D.23, subdivision 3, clause (5).</u>		
106.24	<u>This appropriation is available until fiscal year</u>		
106.25	<u>2029.</u>		
106.26	Sec. 15. <u>GRANT PROGRAMS; CHILD</u>		
106.27	<u>SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT GRANTS</u>	\$ <u>50,000</u>	\$ <u>50,000</u>
106.28	Sec. 16. <u>GRANT PROGRAMS; CHILDREN'S</u>		
106.29	<u>SERVICES GRANTS</u>	\$ <u>43,204,000</u>	\$ <u>43,205,000</u>
106.30	<u>The commissioner shall allocate funds from</u>		
106.31	<u>the state's savings from the Fostering</u>		
106.32	<u>Connections to Success and Increasing</u>		
106.33	<u>Adoptions Act's expanded eligibility for Title</u>		
106.34	<u>IV-E adoption assistance as required in</u>		
106.35	<u>Minnesota Statutes, section 142A.61, and as</u>		
106.36	<u>allowable under federal law. Additional</u>		

107.1 savings to the state as a result of the Fostering
 107.2 Connections to Success and Increasing
 107.3 Adoptions Act's expanded eligibility for Title
 107.4 IV-E adoption assistance is for postadoption,
 107.5 foster care, adoption, and kinship services,
 107.6 including a parent-to-parent support network
 107.7 and as allowable under federal law.

107.8	Sec. 17. <u>GRANT PROGRAMS; CHILDREN</u>			
107.9	<u>AND COMMUNITY SERVICE GRANTS</u>	\$	<u>87,984,000</u>	\$ <u>87,984,000</u>

107.10	Sec. 18. <u>GRANT PROGRAMS; CHILDREN</u>			
107.11	<u>AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT GRANTS</u>	\$	<u>13,827,000</u>	\$ <u>12,426,000</u>

107.12 Subdivision 1. **FAIM**

107.13 \$209,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$210,000 in
 107.14 fiscal year 2027 are from the general fund for
 107.15 the family assets for independence program.
 107.16 This is a onetime appropriation and is
 107.17 available until fiscal year 2029.

107.18 Subd. 2. **American Indian Food Sovereignty**
 107.19 **Funding Program**

107.20 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026 is for the
 107.21 American Indian food sovereignty funding
 107.22 program under Minnesota Statutes, section
 107.23 142F.15. This is a onetime appropriation and
 107.24 is available until June 30, 2027.

107.25 Subd. 3. **Minnesota Food Shelf Program**

107.26 \$451,000 in fiscal year 2026 is for the
 107.27 Minnesota food shelf program under
 107.28 Minnesota Statutes, section 142F.14. This is
 107.29 a onetime appropriation.

107.30 Subd. 4. **Prepared Meals Food Relief**

107.31 \$451,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,638,000
 107.32 in fiscal year 2027 are for prepared meals food
 107.33 relief grants under Laws 2023, chapter 70,

108.1 article 12, section 33. This is a onetime
 108.2 appropriation.

108.3 **Subd. 5. Base Level Adjustment**

108.4 The general fund base is \$12,216,000 in fiscal
 108.5 year 2028 and \$12,216,000 in fiscal year 2029.

108.6 **Sec. 19. GRANT PROGRAMS; EARLY**
 108.7 **LEARNING GRANTS**

\$ 139,038,000 \$ 132,838,000

108.8 **Sec. 20. GRANT PROGRAMS; YOUTH**
 108.9 **SERVICES GRANTS**

\$ 8,141,000 \$ 8,141,000

108.10 **Subdivision 1. Restorative Practices Initiative**
 108.11 **Grant**

108.12 \$1,750,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,750,000
 108.13 in fiscal year 2027 are from the general fund
 108.14 for restorative practices initiative grants. The
 108.15 general fund base for this appropriation is
 108.16 \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2028 and \$2,500,000
 108.17 in fiscal year 2029.

108.18 **Subd. 2. Base Level Adjustment**

108.19 The general fund base is \$8,891,000 in fiscal
 108.20 year 2028 and \$8,891,000 in fiscal year 2029.

108.21 **Sec. 21. TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES**

\$ 74,493,000 \$ 74,493,000

108.22 This appropriation is from the federal TANF
 108.23 fund.

108.24 **Sec. 22. CANCELLATIONS.**

108.25 Subdivision 1. Child welfare initiative grants. \$5,294,000 of the fiscal year 2025
 108.26 general fund appropriation in Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 20, section 2, subdivision 22,
 108.27 paragraph (b), is canceled to the general fund.

108.28 Subd. 2. Establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. \$8,500,000
 108.29 of the fiscal year 2024 general fund appropriation in Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 20,
 108.30 section 12, paragraph (b), is canceled to the general fund.

109.1 Subd. 3. **Social service information system technology improvements.** \$5,059,000
109.2 of the fiscal year 2024 general fund appropriation in Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 20,
109.3 section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (g), is canceled to the general fund.

109.4 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment, or
109.5 retroactively from June 30, 2025, whichever is earlier.

109.6 **Sec. 23. TRANSFERS.**

109.7 Subdivision 1. **Programs and grants.** The commissioner of children, youth, and families,
109.8 with the approval of the commissioner of management and budget, may transfer
109.9 unencumbered appropriation balances for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, within fiscal
109.10 years among MFIP; MFIP child care assistance under Minnesota Statutes, section 142E.08;
109.11 the entitlement portion of Northstar Care for Children under Minnesota Statutes, sections
109.12 142A.60 to 142A.612; and early childhood family education under Minnesota Statutes,
109.13 section 142D.11, between fiscal years of the biennium. The commissioner shall inform the
109.14 chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
109.15 children and families finance and policy quarterly about transfers made under this
109.16 subdivision.

109.17 Subd. 2. **Administration.** Positions, salary money, and nonsalary administrative money
109.18 may be transferred within the Department of Children, Youth, and Families as the
109.19 commissioners deem necessary, with the advance approval of the commissioner of
109.20 management and budget. The commissioners shall report to the chairs and ranking minority
109.21 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over children and families finance
109.22 quarterly about transfers made under this subdivision.

109.23 Subd. 3. **Interdepartmental transfers.** Administrative money may be transferred
109.24 between the Department of Children, Youth, and Families and Department of Human
109.25 Services or the Department of Education as the commissioners deem necessary, with the
109.26 advance approval of the commissioner of management and budget. The commissioners
109.27 shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with
109.28 jurisdiction over children and families finance and policy quarterly about transfers made
109.29 under this subdivision.

109.30 **Sec. 24. EXPIRATION OF UNCODIFIED LANGUAGE.**

109.31 All uncodified language contained in this article expires on June 30, 2027, unless a
109.32 different expiration date is explicit or an appropriation is made available beyond June 30,
109.33 2027.

110.1 Sec. 25. APPROPRIATIONS GIVEN EFFECT ONCE.

110.2 If an appropriation, transfer, or cancellation in this article is enacted more than once
110.3 during the 2025 regular session, the appropriation, transfer, or cancellation must be given
110.4 effect once.

110.5 **ARTICLE 8**

110.6 **OTHER AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS**

110.7 Section 1. OTHER AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS.

110.8 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies
110.9 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,
110.10 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.
110.11 The figures "2026" and "2027" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under
110.12 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively.
110.13 "The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium"
110.14 is fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

110.15 **APPROPRIATIONS**

110.16 **Available for the Year**

110.17 **Ending June 30**

		<u>2026</u>		<u>2027</u>
110.18				
110.19	Sec. 2. <u>OMBUDSPERSON FOR FAMILIES</u>	<u>\$ 792,000</u>	\$	<u>808,000</u>
110.20	Sec. 3. <u>OMBUDSPERSON FOR AMERICAN</u>			
110.21	<u>INDIAN FAMILIES</u>	<u>\$ 344,000</u>	\$	<u>347,000</u>
110.22	Sec. 4. <u>OFFICE OF THE FOSTER YOUTH</u>			
110.23	<u>OMBUDSPERSON</u>	<u>\$ 1,067,000</u>	\$	<u>785,000</u>
110.24	Sec. 5. <u>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>	<u>\$ 7,950,000</u>	\$	<u>7,950,000</u>

110.25 Sec. 6. EXPIRATION OF UNCODIFIED LANGUAGE.

110.26 All uncodified language contained in this article expires on June 30, 2027, unless a
110.27 different expiration date is explicit or an appropriation is made available beyond June 30,
110.28 2027.

111.1 Sec. 7. CANCELLATIONS.

111.2 \$295,000 of the fiscal year 2025 general fund appropriation in Laws 2023, chapter 70,
 111.3 article 20, section 8, is canceled to the general fund.

111.4 Sec. 8. APPROPRIATIONS GIVEN EFFECT ONCE.

111.5 If an appropriation, transfer, or cancellation in this article is enacted more than once
 111.6 during the 2025 regular session, the appropriation, transfer, or cancellation must be given
 111.7 effect once."

111.8 Delete the title and insert:

111.9 "A bill for an act

111.10 relating to children; modifying provisions relating to economic assistance, child
 111.11 protection and welfare, early care and learning, and licensing and certification;
 111.12 requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections
 111.13 142A.03, subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision; 142A.42; 142B.01, subdivision
 111.14 15; 142B.05, subdivision 3; 142B.10, subdivisions 14, 16; 142B.16, subdivisions
 111.15 2, 5; 142B.171, subdivision 2; 142B.18, subdivisions 4, 6; 142B.30, subdivision
 111.16 1; 142B.41, by adding a subdivision; 142B.47; 142B.51, subdivision 2; 142B.65,
 111.17 subdivisions 8, 9; 142B.66, subdivision 3; 142B.70, subdivisions 7, 8; 142B.80;
 111.18 142C.06, by adding a subdivision; 142C.11, subdivision 8; 142C.12, subdivisions
 111.19 1, 6; 142D.21, subdivisions 6, 10, by adding a subdivision; 142D.23, subdivision
 111.20 3; 142D.31, subdivision 2; 142E.03, subdivision 3; 142E.11, subdivisions 1, 2;
 111.21 142E.13, subdivision 2; 142E.15, subdivision 1; 142E.16, subdivisions 3, 7;
 111.22 142E.17, subdivision 9; 245.0962, subdivision 1; 245A.18, subdivision 1; 245C.02,
 111.23 by adding a subdivision; 260.65; 260.66, subdivision 1; 260.691, subdivision 1;
 111.24 260.692; 260.810, subdivisions 1, 2; 260.821, subdivision 2; 260C.001, subdivision
 111.25 2; 260C.007, subdivision 19; 260C.141, subdivision 1; 260C.150, subdivision 3;
 111.26 260C.178, subdivisions 1, 7; 260C.201, subdivisions 1, 2; 260C.202, subdivision
 111.27 2, by adding subdivisions; 260C.204; 260C.212, subdivisions 1, 1a; 260C.221,
 111.28 subdivision 2; 260C.223, subdivisions 1, 2; 260C.329, subdivisions 3, 8; 260C.451,
 111.29 subdivision 9; 260C.452, subdivision 4; 260E.03, subdivision 15; 260E.065;
 111.30 260E.09; 260E.20, subdivisions 1, 3; 260E.24, subdivisions 1, 2; 518A.46,
 111.31 subdivision 7; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 142B;
 111.32 260E."