

H.F. 2436

First engrossment

Subject Children and Families Finance and Policy Budget Bill

Authors West and Kotyza-Witthuhn

Analyst Danyell A. Punelli (article 1)
Sarah Sunderman (articles 2 and 3)
Annie Mach (articles 4 to 8)

Date April 17, 2025

Overview

H.F. 2436, the first engrossment, is the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee's budget bill for the 2025 session.

Table of Contents

Article 1: Economic Assistance	2
Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy.....	2
Article 3: Child Protection and Welfare Finance.....	9
Article 4: Early Care and Learning Policy	10
Article 5: Early Care and Learning Finance	11
Article 6: Department of Children, Youth, and Families Licensing and Certification Policy...	13
Article 7: Department of Children, Youth, and Families Appropriations	18
Article 8: Other Agency Appropriations.....	18

Article 1: Economic Assistance

This article exempts the commissioner of DCYF from contract term limitations for the issuance of public benefits through an EBT system and related services.

Section	Description - Article 1: Economic Assistance
---------	--

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <p>Electronic benefits transfer (EBT); contracting and procurement.</p> <p>Amends § 142A.03, by adding subd. 35. Exempts the commissioner from the contract term limits for the issuance of public benefits through an EBT system and related services. Allows these contracts to have up to an initial five-year term, with extensions not to exceed a ten-year total contract duration. Generally, under current law, contracts and amendments must not exceed five years without specific, written approval by the commissioner of administration.</p> |
|---|--|

Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy

This article makes changes related to relative foster care, modifies mandated reporter training content requirements, and modifies the definition of neglect for purposes of child maltreatment reporting, to address continued hospital stays for children with mental, physical, or emotional conditions who cannot return home but for whom necessary services are not available. The article also contains provisions from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families policy bill related to inquiries into a child's heritage, extended foster care, case plan documentation, reestablishment of parental rights, noncaregiver human trafficking response, and reporting requirements for school attendance concerns.

Section	Description - Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy
---------	--

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

Section Description - Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy

- Adds paragraph (c), specifying that only the individual related to the child must be licensed, if the individual has a domestic partner but is not married. Specifies that background studies on household members are required.
- 3 **Training on risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma for child foster care providers.**
Amends § 142B.47. Exempts individuals related to a child from completing training under this section before caring for the child; requires training to be completed within 30 days of foster care licensure.
- 4 **Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement.**
Amends § 142B.51, subd. 2. Adds paragraph (f), requiring a relative foster caregiver to complete training under this section within 30 days of foster care licensure, rather than before caring for the child.
- 5 **Child foster care training requirement; mental health training; fetal alcohol spectrum disorders training.**
Amends § 142B.80. Exempts relative foster care license holders who only serve a child who does not have a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) from annual FASD training requirement.
- 6 **Child foster care training; relative caregivers.**
Proposes coding for § 142B.81. Exempts relative child foster care license holders who only care for relative children from training requirements in rules, and instead requires them to complete at least six hours of in-service training annually, in specified subjects. Requires license holders to consult with the licensing agency regarding which training subjects to complete.
- 7 **Relative.**
Amends § 245C.02 by adding subd. 16b. Defines “relative” for purposes of human services background studies under chapter 245C.
- 8 **Noncustodial parents; relative placement.**
Amends § 260.65. Makes technical clarifying changes.
- 9 **Emergency removal or placement permitted.**
Amends § 260.66, subd. 1. Makes technical correction.
- 10 **Establishment and duties.**
Amends § 260.691. Adds language to the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act to establish the African American Child and Family Well-Being Advisory Council for the Department of

Section Description - Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy

- Children, Youth, and Families. The African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council was given duties in the Act in 2024. Removes duty to assist the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council.
- 11 **African American Child and Family Well-Being Unit.**
Amends § 260.692. Updates terminology to include “family.”
- 12 **Juvenile protection proceedings.**
Amends § 260C.001, subd. 2. Adds inquiring about a child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity to activities listed for ensuring appropriate permanency planning for children in foster care.
- 13 **Habitual truant.**
Amends § 260C.007, subd. 19. Modifies the definition of “habitual truant” to limit it to children between the ages of 12 and 18 rather than any child under age 17. Removes elementary school language. Adds language to align habitual truant definition with legal presumption in another section of chapter 260C.
- 14 **Who may file; required form.**
Amends § 260C.141, subd. 1. For a CHIPS petition, adds requirement to include a statement of whether the petitioner has inquired about the child’s heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity.
- 15 **Identifying parents of child; diligent efforts; data.**
Amends § 260C.150, subd. 3. Adds requirement for the responsible social services agency to inquire about a child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity.
- 16 **Hearing and release requirements.**
Amends § 260C.178, subd. 1. Requires the court, if ordering a child into foster care, to inquire about a child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity, and the responsible social services agency’s initial relative search efforts.
- 17 **Case plan.**
Amends § 260C.178, subd. 7. Extends timeline for out-of-home placement plan from 30 to 60 days after placement; specifies that the out-of-home placement plan summary is required within 30 days of removal.

Section Description - Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy

18 Dispositions.

Amends § 260C.201, subd. 1. Requires the court to inquire about a child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity when making a foster care placement of a child whose legal custody has been transferred to a responsible social services agency or a child-placing agency.

19 Written findings.

Amends § 260C.201, subd. 2. Requires the court's findings to include a description of the responsible social services agency's efforts to inquire about a child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity.

20 Court review for a child placed in foster care.

Amends § 260C.202, subd. 2. Removes annual review for a child in extended foster care; moves language to new subdivision.

21 Court review prior to the 18th birthday of a child in foster care.

Amends § 260C.202 by adding subd. 3. Requires the court to conduct a review during the 90-day period prior to the 18th birthday of a child in foster care. Requires the responsible social services agency to file a written report with the court as part of the review; specifies what the report must include. Requires the agency to inform the child and other parties of these requirements and their right to request a hearing.

Requires the court to hold a hearing when requested, upon receiving the written agency report. Requires the court to issue an order, with or without a hearing, with findings regarding extended foster care, transition to adulthood, and reentry into extended foster care up to age 21.

22 Court reviews for a child over age 18 in foster care.

Amends § 260C.202 by adding subd. 4. Moves extended foster care annual review language to new subdivision.

23 Permanency progress review for children in foster care for six months.

Amends § 260C.204. Before defining a foster family as a child's permanent home, requires the responsible social services agency to inquire about a child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity and requires the court to determine that reasonable or active efforts toward completing relative search requirements have been made.

24 Out-of-home placement; plan.

Amends § 260C.212, subd. 1. Removes requirement for an out-of-home placement plan to be prepared within 30 days after placement in foster care. Adds requirement to use a form developed by the commissioner. Adds paragraph (b) replacing

Section Description - Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy

- paragraph (e) to require a one- to two-page out-of-home placement plan summary. Adds paragraph (c) to require the summary to be prepared within 30 days after placement in foster care and to require the full plan to be prepared within 60 days after placement. Makes additional clarifying changes.
- 25 **Out-of-home placement plan update.**
Amends § 260C.212, subd. 1a. Makes conforming changes related to out-of-home placement summary and plan timeline changes.
- 26 **Relative notice requirements.**
Amends § 260C.221, subd. 2. Adds supportive services and foster care licensing and adoption home study requirements to subjects about which the responsible social services agency must notify relatives of children in need of protection or services.
- 27 **Program; goals.**
Amends § 260C.223, subd. 1. Modifies goals of concurrent permanency planning program to include establishing a foster parent for the child, rather than developing a group of families to work towards reunification and serve as a permanent family for children.
- 28 **Development of guidelines and protocols.**
Amends § 260C.223, subd. 2. Before making a foster family a permanent home for a child, requires the responsible social services agency to inquire about a child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity and requires the court to determine that reasonable or active efforts toward completing relative search requirements have been made.
- 29 **Petition.**
Amends § 260C.329, subd. 3. Expands individuals who may file a petition for the reestablishment of the legal parent and child relationship to include a parent whose voluntary consent to adoption was accepted by the court, under specified circumstances. Also modifies language to allow for a petition when a child is not currently adopted, rather than "has not been adopted."
- 30 **Hearing.**
Amends § 260C.329, subd. 8. Makes conforming change related to adoption language change in previous section.

Section Description - Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy

31 Administrative or court review of placements.

Amends § 260C.451, subd. 9. For permanency planning for foster care past age 18, adds requirement for the responsible social services agency to file a written report that contains:

- the child's name, date of birth, race, gender, and address;
- a written summary describing planning with the child;
- the child's most recent out-of-home placement plan and independent living plan;
- a copy of the child's 180-day transition plan; and
- if the agency plans to transition the child to adult services, a summary of the required transition plan.

32 Administrative or court review of placements.

Amends § 260C.452, subd. 4. Replaces "green card" with "permanent resident card."

33 Neglect.

Amends § 260E.03, subd. 15. Adds a paragraph to the definition of neglect, to specify that a child who has a mental, physical, or emotional condition must not be considered neglected under chapter 260E, solely because the child stays in an emergency department or hospital because services deemed necessary by the child's medical or mental health care professional or county case manager are not available to the child's caregiver, and the child cannot be safely discharged to the child's family.

34 Training for reporters.

Amends § 260E.065. Adds subdivisions to specify that for mandated reporter trainings offered by local welfare agencies, at least half of the training time must be spent on how to identify signs of child maltreatment or abuse, including the definition of each type of maltreatment under chapter 260E. Also requires the commissioner of children, youth, and families to create trainings with input from professionals who have specialized knowledge related to child maltreatment.

35 Reporting requirements.

Amends § 260E.09. Requires the responsible agency to ask a maltreatment reporter if the reporter is aware of the child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity.

36 General duties.

Amends § 260E.20, subd. 1. Adds noncaregiver human trafficking assessment to local welfare agency maltreatment response paths. For any assessment or investigation, requires the agency to ask the child, if age appropriate; family; or reporter about the

Section Description - Article 2: Child Protection and Welfare Policy

- child's heritage, including the child's Tribal lineage, and their race, culture, and ethnicity.
- 37 **Collection of information.**
Amends § 260E.20, subd. 3. Adds noncaregiver human trafficking assessment to local welfare agency maltreatment response paths.
- 38 **Reporting of school attendance concerns.**
Proposes coding for § 260E.215. Establishes reporting requirements for school attendance concerns.
- Subd. 1. Reports required.** Requires a person mandated to report child maltreatment to immediately report if the person knows or has reason to believe that a child required to be enrolled in school has at least seven unexcused absences in the current school year and is at risk of educational neglect or truancy. Allows for voluntary reporting. Specifies that an oral report must be made immediately, followed by a written report within 72 hours. Specifies contents of report.
- Subd. 2. Local welfare agency.** Requires the local welfare agency or agency partner to provide a child welfare response for a report that alleges a child enrolled in school has seven or more unexcused absences. Specifies that the response must offer culturally and linguistically appropriate services to address the school attendance concerns. Requires a report of educational neglect to be made if the family does not engage with services after multiple attempts and the school absences continue.
- 39 **Timing.**
Amends § 260E.24, subd. 1. Adds noncaregiver human trafficking assessment to local welfare agency maltreatment response paths.
- 40 **Determination after family assessment or a noncaregiver human trafficking assessment.**
Amends § 260E.24, subd. 2. Adds noncaregiver human trafficking assessment to local welfare agency maltreatment response paths.
- 41 **Revisor instruction.**
Requires the revisor to make technical changes in sections 260C.203 and 260C.204.

Article 3: Child Protection and Welfare Finance

This article allows the commissioner of children, youth, and families to contract with specified entities to provide permanency services for children in out-of-home care, modifies Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) grant payment timelines and reporting requirements, and removes an annual cap on special focus grant awards under MIFPA. The article also removes the automatic biennial cost-of-living adjustment for child support and maintenance orders, allows for modification of child support redirection when in the best interest of the child, and outlines requirements for modernizing the social services information system.

Section	Description - Article 3: Child Protection and Welfare Finance
---------	---

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Duties of the commissioner.
Amends § 142A.03, subd. 2. Allows the commissioner to contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a Minnesota Tribal social services agency to provide permanency services for children in out-of-home care whose interests would be best served by transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative. |
| 2 | Payments.
Amends § 260.810, subd. 1. Modifies grant payment timelines under MIFPA to be quarterly, rather than requiring a quarterly report to receive payments. |
| 3 | Reporting.
Amends § 260.810, subd. 2. Modifies MIFPA grant reporting requirements, replacing required quarterly reports with a requirement for the commissioner to work with Tribes and urban Indian organizations to establish report requirements and timelines. |
| 4 | Special focus grants.
Amends § 260.821, subd. 2. Removes maximum of \$100,000 grant award for MIFPA special focus grants. |
| 5 | Contents.
Amends § 518.68, subd. 2. Modifies contents of required notices related to child support and maintenance by specifying that prior to January 1, 2027, cost-of-living adjustments for basic support or maintenance may occur every two years, and in the notice effective January 1, 2027, removing the notice regarding the cost-of-living adjustment. |
| 6 | Computation of child support obligations.
Amends § 518A.34. Removes reference to statutory cost-of-living adjustment and replaces with reference to future modification.

Makes this section effective January 1, 2027. |

Section Description - Article 3: Child Protection and Welfare Finance

- 7 **Administrative redirection of support.**
Allows the agency to stop directing child support from the obligor to a public authority who is providing services to the child and send that support to the person who has custody of the child even when the child is out of the home when it is in the best interest of the child to do so.
- 8 **Requirement.**
Amends § 518A.75, subd. 1. Specifies that the biennial cost-of-living adjustment required under the section must not be made after January 1, 2027, for any maintenance or child support order established before, on, or after January 1, 2027.
- 9 **Social services information system modernization.**
Directs the commissioner of children, youth, and families to improve and modernize the child welfare social services information system. Lists elements the system modernization must include. Requires a plan and estimated timeline by March 15, 2026, and progress reports to the legislature at specified intervals until the project is substantially completed.

Article 7: Department of Children, Youth, and Families Appropriations

Appropriates funding for DCYF for the activities described. For details, see the [House Fiscal tracking sheet](#).

Article 8: Other Agency Appropriations

Appropriates funding for the ombudsperson for families, the ombudsperson for American Indian families, the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson, and the Department of Education. For details, see the [House Fiscal tracking sheet](#).



Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn.gov/hrd | 651-296-6753 | Third Floor, Centennial Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155