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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 193

01/19/2021 Authored by Freiberg and Gomez
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; establishing emergency shelter accessibility guidelines;
1.3 appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter
1.4 256E.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. 256E.365 EMERGENCY SHELTER ACCESSIBILITY.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Accessibility guidelines. The commissioner shall create guidelines for
1.8 equitable access to emergency shelters and domestic violence shelters for individuals with
1.9 developmental and intellectual disabilities.

1.10 Subd. 2. County or state funding. An emergency shelter or domestic violence shelter
1.11 that receives county or state funding, including medical assistance reimbursements, must
1.12 comply with the following accessibility guidelines in order to provide access to shelter for
1.13 individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities:

1.14 (1) provide sensory friendly space or access to sensory accommodation tools, upon
1.15 request;

1.16 (2) provide appropriate accommodation to the intake process based on shelter and client
1.17 need; and

1.18 (3) have a written policy and procedures for supporting individuals with developmental
1.19 and intellectual disabilities that are reviewed semiannually by all staff and volunteers with
1.20 direct contact with clients.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Written policy.** (a) An emergency shelter or domestic violence shelter must
2.2 submit the written policy under subdivision 2, clause (3), to the Minnesota Council on
2.3 Disability once every two years, with the first submission due on

2.4 (b) The written policy must include information about accessibility laws, best practices
2.5 for supporting clients with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and the process for
2.6 clients to request accommodations.

2.7 Subd. 4. **Annual training.** Emergency shelter and domestic violence shelter staff and
2.8 volunteers who have direct contact with clients must complete annual training in
2.9 developmental and intellectual disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, behavioral
2.10 supports, and crisis de-escalation.

2.11 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY SHELTER ACCESSIBILITY**
2.12 **TRAINING.**

2.13 \$..... in fiscal year 2022 and \$..... in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general
2.14 fund to the commissioner of human services for purposes of emergency shelter accessibility
2.15 training under Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.365.