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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. **502**

02/11/2013 Authored by Cornish and Abeler

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Early Childhood and Youth Development Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to human services; modifying the adoption assistance program to allow  
1.3 reimbursement for child care; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section  
1.4 259A.20, subdivision 4.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 259A.20, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 4. **Reimbursement for special nonmedical expenses.** (a) Reimbursement  
1.8 for special nonmedical expenses is available to children, except those eligible for adoption  
1.9 assistance based on being an at-risk child.

1.10 (b) Reimbursements under this paragraph shall be made only after the adoptive  
1.11 parent documents that the requested service was denied by the local social service agency,  
1.12 community agencies, the local school district, the local public health department, the  
1.13 parent's insurance provider, or the child's program. The denial must be for an eligible  
1.14 service or qualified item under the program requirements of the applicable agency or  
1.15 organization.

1.16 (c) Reimbursements must be previously authorized, adhere to the requirements and  
1.17 procedures prescribed by the commissioner, and be limited to:

1.18 (1) child care for a child age 12 and younger, or for a child age 13 or 14 who has a  
1.19 documented disability that requires special instruction for and services by the child care  
1.20 provider. Child care reimbursements may be made if all available adult caregivers are  
1.21 employed or attending educational or vocational training programs, or if an adult caregiver  
1.22 is employed full time and the other caregiver is disabled as defined in section 256.481. If a  
1.23 parent is attending an educational or vocational training program, child care reimbursement  
1.24 is limited to no more than the time necessary to complete the credit requirements for an

associate or baccalaureate degree as determined by the educational institution. Child care reimbursement is not limited for an adoptive parent completing basic or remedial education programs needed to prepare for postsecondary education or employment;

(2) respite care provided for the relief of the child's parent up to 504 hours of respite care annually;

(3) camping up to 14 days per state fiscal year for a child to attend a special needs camp. The camp must be accredited by the American Camp Association as a special needs camp in order to be eligible for camp reimbursement;

(4) postadoption counseling to promote the child's integration into the adoptive family that is provided by the placing agency during the first year following the date of the adoption decree. Reimbursement is limited to 12 sessions of postadoption counseling;

(5) family counseling that is required to meet the child's special needs. Reimbursement is limited to the prorated portion of the counseling fees allotted to the family when the adoptive parent's health insurance or Medicaid pays for the child's counseling but does not cover counseling for the rest of the family members;

(6) home modifications to accommodate the child's special needs upon which eligibility for adoption assistance was approved. Reimbursement is limited to once every five years per child;

(7) vehicle modifications to accommodate the child's special needs upon which eligibility for adoption assistance was approved. Reimbursement is limited to once every five years per family; and

(8) burial expenses up to \$1,000, if the special needs, upon which eligibility for adoption assistance was approved, resulted in the death of the child.

(d) The adoptive parent shall submit statements for expenses incurred between July 1 and June 30 of a given fiscal year to the state adoption assistance unit within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year in order for reimbursement to occur.