

S.F. No. 2736 and H.F. No. 2671, which had been referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison, were examined and found to be not identical.

The following document shows the differences between S.F. No. 2736, the first engrossment, and H.F. No. 2671, the first engrossment.

March 24, 2022

Patrick D. Murphy  
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives

### **Explanation of Comparison Reports**

When a Senate File is received from the Senate, it is given its first reading and must be referred to the appropriate standing committee or division under Rule 1.11. But if the House File companion of that Senate File has already been reported out of Committee and given its second reading and is on the General Register, the Senate File must be referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison pursuant to Rule 1.15. The Chief Clerk reports whether the bills were found to be identical or not identical. Once the bills have been compared and the differences have been reported, the Senate File is given its second reading and is substituted for the House File. The House File is then considered withdrawn. Pursuant to rule 3.33, if the bills are not identical and the chief author of the bill wishes to use the House language, the chief author must give notice of their intent to substitute the House language when the bill is placed on the Calendar for the Day or the Fiscal Calendar. If the chief author of the bill wishes to keep the Senate language, no action is required.

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to children; establishing juvenile court guardianship for at-risk juveniles;

1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 260C.101, subdivision 2; proposing

1.4 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260C.

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

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to children; establishing juvenile court guardianship for at-risk youth;

1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 260C.101, subdivision 2; proposing

1.4 coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 257D.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[257D.01] DEFINITIONS.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms defined in this section

1.8 have the meanings given.

1.9 Subd. 2. **Abandonment.** "Abandonment" means the parent's failure to maintain contact

1.10 with an at-risk juvenile on a regular basis or to demonstrate consistent interest in an at-risk

1.11 juvenile's well-being beginning at least six months prior to the at-risk juvenile reaching the

1.12 age of 18, or the death of an at-risk juvenile's parent.

1.13 Subd. 3. **Abuse.** "Abuse" means, at any time in an at-risk juvenile's life, the infliction

1.14 or threat of:

1.15 (1) psychological or emotional harm;

1.16 (2) physical injury that was not due to an accident; or

1.17 (3) sexual abuse, which includes sex trafficking as defined in section 609.321, subdivision

1.18 7a.

1.19 Subd. 4. **At-risk juvenile.** "At-risk juvenile" means an unmarried person who is between

1.20 the ages of 18 and 21 and is potentially eligible for classification under United States Code,

1.21 title 8, section 1101(a)(27)(J), as amended through December 31, 2021.

2.1 Subd. 5. **Best interests.** "Best interests" has the meaning given in section 260C.511,

2.2 paragraph (a).

2.3 Subd. 6. **Guardian.** "Guardian" means an adult who has been appointed by the court as

2.4 the guardian of an at-risk juvenile under this chapter. A guardian includes but is not limited

2.5 to a parent.

2.6 Subd. 7. **Mental injury.** "Mental injury" has the meaning given in section 260E.03,

2.7 subdivision 13.

2.8 Subd. 8. **Neglect.** "Neglect" means, at any time prior to an at-risk juvenile reaching the

2.9 age of 18, the failure to give an at-risk juvenile proper care that causes the juvenile's health

2.10 or welfare to be harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm or causes mental injury or a

2.11 substantial risk of mental injury.

- 2.12 Subd. 9. **Petitioner.** "Petitioner" means the at-risk juvenile who is the subject of the  
2.13 petition.
- 2.14 Sec. 2. **[257D.02] GUARDIANSHIP; PURPOSE.**
- 2.15 The purpose of the guardianship under this chapter is to provide an at-risk juvenile with  
2.16 guidance, assistance, financial and emotional support, and referrals to resources necessary  
2.17 to either or both:
- 2.18 (1) meet the at-risk juvenile's needs, which include but are not limited to shelter, nutrition,  
2.19 and access to and receipt of psychiatric, psychological, medical, dental, educational,  
2.20 occupational, or other services; or
- 2.21 (2) protect the at-risk juvenile from sex or labor trafficking or domestic or sexual violence.
- 2.22 Sec. 3. **[257D.03] JURISDICTION; PETITION.**
- 2.23 Subdivision 1. **Jurisdiction.** The juvenile court has exclusive jurisdiction for all petitions  
2.24 for guardianship brought under this chapter.
- 2.25 Subd. 2. **Petition.** An at-risk juvenile may petition the juvenile court for the appointment  
2.26 of a guardian. The petition must state the name of the proposed guardian and allege that:
- 2.27 (1) the appointment of a guardian is in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile;
- 2.28 (2) the proposed guardian is capable and reputable;
- 2.29 (3) both the petitioner and the proposed guardian agree to the appointment of a  
2.30 guardianship under this chapter;
- 3.1 (4) reunification of the at-risk juvenile with one or both parents is not viable because of  
3.2 abandonment, abuse, neglect, or a similar basis that has an effect on an at-risk juvenile  
3.3 comparable to abandonment, abuse, or neglect under Minnesota law; and
- 3.4 (5) it is not in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile to be returned to the at-risk juvenile's  
3.5 or at-risk juvenile's parent's previous country of nationality or last habitual residence.
- 3.6 Sec. 4. **[257D.04] RIGHT TO COUNSEL.**
- 3.7 The at-risk juvenile petitioning for a guardianship and the proposed guardian named in  
3.8 the petition each have the right to be represented by counsel of the at-risk juvenile's or  
3.9 guardian's choosing and at the at-risk juvenile's or guardian's own expense.
- 3.10 Sec. 5. **[257D.05] SERVICE.**

- 3.11 The proposed guardian and, if an appointment of a new guardian is sought, the existing  
3.12 guardian for the at-risk juvenile previously appointed under this chapter are entitled to  
3.13 service in the manner specified in the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure.
- 3.14 Sec. 6. **[257D.06] NOTICE TO PARENTS.**
- 3.15 The petitioner must provide a copy of the petition to any living parent in any manner  
3.16 and format reasonably calculated to give the parent adequate notice at least 14 days prior  
3.17 to the hearing under section 257D.07. Prior to or at the hearing, the petitioner must file  
3.18 proof that the copy of the petition was provided to any living parents of the petitioner. The  
3.19 court may waive notice to a parent:
- 3.20 (1) if the identity or location of the petitioner's parent is unknown; or
- 3.21 (2) for any other reason that the court may deem appropriate.
- 3.22 Sec. 7. **[257D.07] PROCEEDING.**
- 3.23 Subdivision 1. **Timing; venue.** The court shall hear and issue an order on any petition  
3.24 as soon as administratively feasible and prior to the at-risk juvenile reaching 21 years of  
3.25 age. Venue must be in the county where the at-risk juvenile or the proposed guardian resides.
- 3.26 Subd. 2. **Rights of at-risk juvenile.** Nothing in this section authorizes the guardian to  
3.27 abrogate any rights or privileges to which the at-risk juvenile is entitled under law.
- 4.1 Sec. 8. **[257D.08] ORDER.**
- 4.2 Subdivision 1. **Issuance.** The court must issue an order awarding a guardianship for the  
4.3 purposes identified in section 257D.02 if the court finds that:
- 4.4 (1) the proposed guardian is capable and reputable;
- 4.5 (2) the guardianship is in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile;
- 4.6 (3) both the petitioner and the proposed guardian agree to the establishment of a  
4.7 guardianship under this chapter;
- 4.8 (4) reunification of the at-risk juvenile with one or both parents is not viable because of  
4.9 abandonment, abuse, neglect, or a similar basis that has an effect on an at-risk juvenile  
4.10 comparable to abandonment, abuse, or neglect under Minnesota law; and
- 4.11 (5) it is not in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile to be returned to the previous  
4.12 country of nationality or last habitual residence of the juvenile or the juvenile's parent or  
4.13 parents.

- 4.14 Subd. 2. **Contents of the order:** (a) The order must, where the identity is known,  
4.15 specifically identify the parent or parents whom the court finds have abused, abandoned,  
4.16 or neglected the at-risk juvenile.
- 4.17 (b) The order must contain the following three judicial determinations, each supported  
4.18 by relevant state statutory citations and written findings of fact:
- 4.19 (1) the at-risk juvenile is dependent on the juvenile court, and has been placed under the  
4.20 custody of an individual appointed by the juvenile court, through the appointment of a  
4.21 guardian, for the purposes of this chapter;
- 4.22 (2) reunification of the at-risk juvenile with one or both parents is not viable because of  
4.23 abandonment, abuse, or neglect or a similar basis that has an effect on an at-risk juvenile  
4.24 comparable to abandonment, abuse, or neglect under Minnesota law; and
- 4.25 (3) it is not in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile to be returned to the at-risk juvenile's  
4.26 or at-risk juvenile's parent's country of nationality or last habitual residence.
- 4.27 Sec. 9. **[257D.09] APPOINTMENT OF A NEW GUARDIAN.**
- 4.28 At any time after the approval of a guardian under section 257D.08, an at-risk juvenile  
4.29 or the currently appointed at-risk juvenile's guardian may petition the juvenile court for  
4.30 appointment of a new guardian. The petition must state the name of the proposed new  
5.1 guardian and set forth the facts supporting the request. The court may appoint a new guardian  
5.2 if the court finds that:
- 5.3 (1) the proposed new guardian is capable and reputable;
- 5.4 (2) the appointment of a new guardian is in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile; and
- 5.5 (3) both the at-risk juvenile and the proposed new guardian agree to the establishment  
5.6 of the guardianship.
- 5.7 Sec. 10. **[257D.10] AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF GUARDIANSHIP.**
- 5.8 A guardianship awarded under this chapter terminates when the at-risk juvenile attains  
5.9 the age of 21. The juvenile court's jurisdiction continues until termination of the guardianship.
- 5.10 Sec. 11. **[257D.11] VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OF GUARDIANSHIP.**
- 5.11 The at-risk juvenile may request the termination of the guardianship at any time and,  
5.12 upon request, the juvenile court shall terminate the guardianship.
- 5.13 Sec. 12. **[257D.12] RELATION TO OTHER GUARDIANSHIP LAW.**

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 260C.101, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 2. **Other matters relating to children.** The juvenile court has original and  
1.8 exclusive jurisdiction in proceedings concerning:

1.9 (1) the termination of parental rights to a child in accordance with the provisions of  
1.10 sections 260C.301 to 260C.328;

1.11 (2) permanency matters under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521;

1.12 (3) the appointment and removal of a juvenile court guardian for a child, where parental  
1.13 rights have been terminated under the provisions of sections 260C.301 to 260C.328;

1.14 (4) judicial consent to the marriage of a child when required by law;

1.15 (5) all adoption matters and review of the efforts to finalize the adoption of the child  
1.16 under section 260C.317;

1.17 (6) the review of the placement of a child who is in foster care pursuant to a voluntary  
1.18 placement agreement between the child's parent or parents and the responsible social services  
1.19 agency under section 260C.227; or between the child, when the child is over age 18, and  
1.20 the agency under section 260C.229;

2.1 (7) the review of voluntary foster care placement of a child for treatment under chapter  
2.2 260D according to the review requirements of that chapter; ~~and~~

2.3 (8) the reestablishment of a legal parent and child relationship under section 260C.329;  
2.4 and

2.5 (9) juvenile court guardianship petitions for at-risk juveniles filed under section 260C.149.

2.6 Sec. 2. [260C.149] JUVENILE COURT GUARDIANSHIP FOR AT-RISK  
2.7 JUVENILES.

2.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the terms defined in this  
2.9 subdivision have the meanings given.

2.10 (a) "Abandonment" means the parent's failure to maintain contact with an at-risk juvenile  
2.11 on a regular basis or to demonstrate consistent interest in an at-risk juvenile's well-being  
2.12 beginning at least six months prior to the at-risk juvenile reaching the age of 18, or the death  
2.13 of an at-risk juvenile's parent.

5.14 The provisions of sections 260C.325, 260C.328, and 524.5-101 to 524.5-317, do not  
5.15 apply to petitions for the appointment of a guardianship for an at-risk juvenile under this  
5.16 chapter.

5.17 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 260C.101, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

5.18 Subd. 2. **Other matters relating to children.** The juvenile court has original and  
5.19 exclusive jurisdiction in proceedings concerning:

5.20 (1) the termination of parental rights to a child in accordance with the provisions of  
5.21 sections 260C.301 to 260C.328;

5.22 (2) permanency matters under sections 260C.503 to 260C.521;

5.23 (3) the appointment and removal of a juvenile court guardian for a child, where parental  
5.24 rights have been terminated under the provisions of sections 260C.301 to 260C.328;

5.25 (4) judicial consent to the marriage of a child when required by law;

5.26 (5) all adoption matters and review of the efforts to finalize the adoption of the child  
5.27 under section 260C.317;

6.1 (6) the review of the placement of a child who is in foster care pursuant to a voluntary  
6.2 placement agreement between the child's parent or parents and the responsible social services  
6.3 agency under section 260C.227; or between the child, when the child is over age 18, and  
6.4 the agency under section 260C.229;

6.5 (7) the review of voluntary foster care placement of a child for treatment under chapter  
6.6 260D according to the review requirements of that chapter; ~~and~~

6.7 (8) the reestablishment of a legal parent and child relationship under section 260C.329;  
6.8 and

6.9 (9) juvenile court guardianship petitions for at-risk juveniles filed under chapter 257D.

- 2.14 (b) "Abuse" means, at any time in an at-risk juvenile's life, the infliction or threat of:
- 2.15 (1) psychological or emotional harm;
- 2.16 (2) physical injury that was not due to an accident; or
- 2.17 (3) sexual abuse, which includes sex trafficking as defined in section 609.321, subdivision
- 2.18 7a.
- 2.19 (c) "At-risk juvenile" means an unmarried person who is between the ages of 18 and 21
- 2.20 and is potentially eligible for classification under United States Code, title 8, section
- 2.21 1101(a)(27)(J), as amended through December 31, 2021.
- 2.22 (d) "Best interests" has the meaning given in section 260C.511, paragraph (a).
- 2.23 (e) "Guardian" means an adult who has been appointed by the court as the guardian of
- 2.24 an at-risk juvenile under this section. A guardian includes but is not limited to a parent.
- 2.25 (f) "Mental injury" has the meaning given in section 260E.03, subdivision 13.
- 2.26 (g) "Neglect" means, at any time prior to an at-risk juvenile reaching the age of 18, the
- 2.27 failure to give an at-risk juvenile proper care that causes the juvenile's health or welfare to
- 2.28 be harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm or causes mental injury or a substantial risk
- 2.29 of mental injury.
- 2.30 (h) "Petitioner" means the at-risk juvenile who is the subject of the petition.
- 3.1 Subd. 2. **Guardianship; purpose.** The purpose of the guardianship under this section
- 3.2 is to provide an at-risk juvenile with guidance, assistance, financial and emotional support,
- 3.3 and referrals to resources necessary to either or both:
- 3.4 (1) meet the at-risk juvenile's needs, which include but are not limited to shelter, nutrition,
- 3.5 and access to and receipt of psychiatric, psychological, medical, dental, educational,
- 3.6 occupational, or social services; or
- 3.7 (2) protect the at-risk juvenile from sex or labor trafficking or domestic or sexual violence.
- 3.8 Subd. 3. **Petition.** An at-risk juvenile may petition the juvenile court for the appointment
- 3.9 of a guardian. The petition must state the name of the proposed guardian and allege that:
- 3.10 (1) the appointment of a guardian is in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile;
- 3.11 (2) the proposed guardian is capable and reputable;
- 3.12 (3) both the petitioner and the proposed guardian agree to the appointment of a
- 3.13 guardianship under this section;

3.14 (4) reunification of the at-risk juvenile with one or both parents is not viable because of  
 3.15 abandonment, abuse, neglect, or a similar basis that has an effect on an at-risk juvenile  
 3.16 comparable to abandonment, abuse, or neglect under Minnesota law; and

3.17 (5) it is not in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile to be returned to the at-risk juvenile's  
 3.18 or at-risk juvenile's parent's previous country of nationality or last habitual residence.

3.19 Subd. 4. **Right to counsel.** The at-risk juvenile petitioning for a guardianship and the  
 3.20 proposed guardian named in the petition each have the right to be represented by counsel  
 3.21 of the at-risk juvenile's or guardian's choosing and at the at-risk juvenile's or guardian's own  
 3.22 expense.

3.23 Subd. 5. **Service.** The proposed guardian and, if an appointment of a new guardian is  
 3.24 sought, the existing guardian for the at-risk juvenile previously appointed under this section  
 3.25 are entitled to service in the manner specified in the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection  
 3.26 Procedure.

3.27 Subd. 6. **Notice to parents.** The petitioner must provide a copy of the petition to any  
 3.28 living parent in any manner and format reasonably calculated to give the parent adequate  
 3.29 notice at least 14 days prior to the hearing under subdivision 7. Prior to or at the hearing,  
 3.30 the petitioner must file proof that the copy of the petition was provided to any living parents  
 3.31 of the petitioner. The court may waive notice to a parent:

3.32 (1) if the identity or location of the petitioner's parent is unknown; or

4.1 (2) for any other reason that the court may deem appropriate.

4.2 Subd. 7. **Proceeding.** (a) The court shall hear and issue an order on any petition as soon  
 4.3 as administratively feasible and prior to the at-risk juvenile reaching 21 years of age.

4.4 (b) Venue must be in the county where the at-risk juvenile or the proposed guardian  
 4.5 resides.

4.6 (c) Nothing in this section authorizes the guardian to abrogate any rights or privileges  
 4.7 to which the at-risk juvenile is entitled under law.

4.8 Subd. 8. **Order.** (a) The court must issue an order awarding a guardianship for the  
 4.9 purposes identified in this section if the court finds that:

4.10 (1) the proposed guardian is capable and reputable;

4.11 (2) the guardianship is in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile;

4.12 (3) both the petitioner and the proposed guardian agree to the establishment of a  
 4.13 guardianship under this section;



4.14 (4) reunification of the at-risk juvenile with one or both parents is not viable because of  
 4.15 abandonment, abuse, neglect, or a similar basis that has an effect on an at-risk juvenile  
 4.16 comparable to abandonment, abuse, or neglect under Minnesota law; and

4.17 (5) it is not in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile to be returned to the previous  
 4.18 country of nationality or last habitual residence of the juvenile or the juvenile's parent or  
 4.19 parents.

4.20 (b) The order must, where the identity is known, specifically identify the parent or parents  
 4.21 whom the court finds have abused, abandoned, or neglected the at-risk juvenile.

4.22 (c) The order must contain relevant state statutory citations and written findings of fact  
 4.23 to support each of these findings:

4.24 (1) the at-risk juvenile is dependent on the juvenile court, and has been placed under the  
 4.25 custody of an individual appointed by the juvenile court, through the appointment of a  
 4.26 guardian, for the purposes of this statute;

4.27 (2) reunification of the at-risk juvenile with one or both parents is not viable because of  
 4.28 abandonment, abuse, or neglect or a similar basis that has an effect on an at-risk juvenile  
 4.29 comparable to abandonment, abuse, or neglect under Minnesota law; and

4.30 (3) it is not in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile to be returned to the at-risk juvenile's  
 4.31 or at-risk juvenile's parent's country of nationality or last habitual residence.

5.1 Subd. 9. **Appointment of new guardian.** At any time after the approval of a guardian  
 5.2 under subdivision 8, an at-risk juvenile or the currently appointed at-risk juvenile's guardian  
 5.3 may petition the juvenile court for appointment of a new guardian. The petition must state  
 5.4 the name of the proposed new guardian and set forth the facts supporting the request. The  
 5.5 court may appoint a new guardian if the court finds that:

5.6 (1) the proposed new guardian is capable and reputable;

5.7 (2) the appointment of a new guardian is in the best interests of the at-risk juvenile; and

5.8 (3) both the petitioner and the proposed new guardian agree to the establishment of the  
 5.9 guardianship.

5.10 Subd. 10. **Automatic termination of guardianship.** A guardianship awarded under  
 5.11 this section terminates when the at-risk juvenile attains the age of 21. The court's jurisdiction  
 5.12 continues until termination of the guardianship.

5.13 Subd. 11. **Voluntary termination of guardianship.** The at-risk juvenile may request  
 5.14 the termination of the guardianship at any time and, upon request, the court shall terminate  
 5.15 the guardianship.

5.16 Subd. 12. **Relation to other guardianship law.** The provisions of sections 260C.325,  
5.17 260C.328, and 524.5-101 to 524.5-317 do not apply to petitions for the appointment of a  
5.18 guardianship for an at-risk juvenile under this section.