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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 945

- 02/10/2021 Authored by Youakim, Frederick, Moller, Baker, Lippert and others
- 02/25/2021 The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy
- 03/10/2021 By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on Education Finance
- 03/10/2021 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to education; modifying third-party reimbursement for social work services

1.3 for special education; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256B.0625,

1.4 subdivision 26.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256B.0625, subdivision 26, is amended to

1.7 read:

1.8 Subd. 26. **Special education services.** (a) Medical assistance covers evaluations necessary

1.9 in making a determination for eligibility for individualized education program and

1.10 individualized family service plan services and for medical services identified in a recipient's

1.11 individualized education program and individualized family service plan and covered under

1.12 the medical assistance state plan. Covered services include occupational therapy, physical

1.13 therapy, speech-language therapy, clinical psychological services, nursing services, school

1.14 psychological services, school social work services, personal care assistants serving as

1.15 management aides, assistive technology devices, transportation services, health assessments,

1.16 and other services covered under the medical assistance state plan. Mental health services

1.17 eligible for medical assistance reimbursement must be provided or coordinated through a

1.18 children's mental health collaborative where a collaborative exists if the child is included

1.19 in the collaborative operational target population. The provision or coordination of services

1.20 does not require that the individualized education program be developed by the collaborative.

1.21 The services may be provided by a Minnesota school district that is enrolled as a medical

1.22 assistance provider or its subcontractor, and only if the services meet all the requirements

1.23 otherwise applicable if the service had been provided by a provider other than a school

2.1 district, in the following areas: medical necessity, physician's or advanced practice registered
2.2 nurse's orders, documentation, personnel qualifications, and prior authorization requirements.
2.3 The nonfederal share of costs for services provided under this subdivision is the responsibility
2.4 of the local school district as provided in section 125A.74. Services listed in a child's
2.5 individualized education program are eligible for medical assistance reimbursement only
2.6 if those services meet criteria for federal financial participation under the Medicaid program.

2.7 (b) Approval of health-related services for inclusion in the individualized education
2.8 program does not require prior authorization for purposes of reimbursement under this
2.9 chapter. The commissioner may require physician or advanced practice registered nurse
2.10 review and approval of the plan not more than once annually or upon any modification of
2.11 the individualized education program that reflects a change in health-related services.
2.12 Notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0371, for purposes of reimbursement under
2.13 this chapter for school social work services, an individualized education program may be
2.14 used instead of a diagnostic assessment.

2.15 (c) Services of a speech-language pathologist provided under this section are covered,
2.16 notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0390, subpart 1, item L, if the person:

2.17 (1) holds a masters degree in speech-language pathology;

2.18 (2) is licensed by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board as an
2.19 educational speech-language pathologist; and

2.20 (3) either has a certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech and Hearing
2.21 Association, has completed the equivalent educational requirements and work experience
2.22 necessary for the certificate or has completed the academic program and is acquiring
2.23 supervised work experience to qualify for the certificate.

2.24 (d) Medical assistance coverage for medically necessary services provided under other
2.25 subdivisions in this section may not be denied solely on the basis that the same or similar
2.26 services are covered under this subdivision.

2.27 (e) The commissioner shall develop and implement package rates, bundled rates, or per
2.28 diem rates for special education services under which separately covered services are grouped
2.29 together and billed as a unit in order to reduce administrative complexity.

2.30 (f) The commissioner shall develop a cost-based payment structure for payment of these
2.31 services. Only costs reported through the designated Minnesota Department of Education
2.32 data systems in distinct service categories qualify for inclusion in the cost-based payment
2.33 structure. The commissioner shall reimburse claims submitted based on an interim rate, and

3.1 shall settle at a final rate once the department has determined it. The commissioner shall
3.2 notify the school district of the final rate. The school district has 60 days to appeal the final
3.3 rate. To appeal the final rate, the school district shall file a written appeal request to the
3.4 commissioner within 60 days of the date the final rate determination was mailed. The appeal
3.5 request shall specify (1) the disputed items and (2) the name and address of the person to
3.6 contact regarding the appeal.

3.7 (g) Effective July 1, 2000, medical assistance services provided under an individualized
3.8 education program or an individual family service plan by local school districts shall not
3.9 count against medical assistance authorization thresholds for that child.

3.10 (h) Nursing services as defined in section 148.171, subdivision 15, and provided as an
3.11 individualized education program health-related service, are eligible for medical assistance
3.12 payment if they are otherwise a covered service under the medical assistance program.
3.13 Medical assistance covers the administration of prescription medications by a licensed nurse
3.14 who is employed by or under contract with a school district when the administration of
3.15 medications is identified in the child's individualized education program. The simple
3.16 administration of medications alone is not covered under medical assistance when
3.17 administered by a provider other than a school district or when it is not identified in the
3.18 child's individualized education program.

3.19 (i) Services of a school social worker provided under this section are covered,
3.20 notwithstanding Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0371, and section 256B.0943, if the person:

3.21 (1) holds a masters degree in social work;

3.22 (2) is licensed by the Board of Social Work;

3.23 (3) is licensed by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board as a school
3.24 social worker; and

3.25 (4) currently holds an independent clinical social worker license issued by the Board of
3.26 Social Work or holds a graduate social worker or independent social worker license and is
3.27 under the supervision of a licensed independent clinical social worker.