

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION**

S.F. No. 3498

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DATE
03/15/2018

D-PG
6528 Introduction and first reading
Referred to Human Services Reform Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to family law; appropriating money to the commissioner of human services
1.3 for a grant to study certain family law issues in the First Judicial District.

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

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; STUDY.**

1.6 (a) \$150,000 in fiscal year 2019 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
1.7 of human services for a grant to Dakota County to study family court issues in the First
1.8 Judicial District. The study must measure the level of satisfaction of married couples with
1.9 children participating in early neutral evaluation and mediation services in the First Judicial
1.10 District. The study must survey at least 75 married couples with children who have
1.11 participated in early neutral evaluation in the First Judicial District and at least 75 married
1.12 couples with children who have participated in mediation services in the First Judicial
1.13 District. The study must, at a minimum, focus on each spouse's level of satisfaction regarding
1.14 the outcomes of their family law case as it relates to the following:

- 1.15 (1) custody arrangements;
- 1.16 (2) parenting time;
- 1.17 (3) property division;
- 1.18 (4) legal expenses;
- 1.19 (5) the length of time of the process;
- 1.20 (6) the level of cooperation of each party; and
- 1.21 (7) the effectiveness of the neutral or neutrals.

- 2.1 (b) Dakota County shall report the findings of the study to the legislative committees
- 2.2 with jurisdiction over family law by January 15, 2020. This is a onetime appropriation.