

does not repeal rules adopted under that subdivision.

Presented to the governor April 14, 2003

Signed by the governor April 14, 2003, 4:45 p.m.

---

## CHAPTER 15—S.F.No. 790

*An act relating to human services; recodifying and reorganizing the background study provisions in the Human Services Licensing Act; making conforming changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2002, sections 245A.04, subdivisions 1, 3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f; 245A.041; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245C.*

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

---

### ARTICLE 1

#### BACKGROUND STUDIES

##### Section 1. [245C.01] TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the "Department of Human Services Background Studies Act."

##### Sec. 2. [245C.02] DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. SCOPE. The definitions in this section apply to this chapter.

Subd. 2. ACCESS TO PERSONS SERVED BY A PROGRAM. "Access to persons served by a program" means physical access to persons receiving services or the persons' personal property without continuous, direct supervision, as defined in subdivision 8.

Subd. 3. ANNUAL OR ANNUALLY. "Annual" or "annually" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 2b.

Subd. 4. APPLICANT. "Applicant" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. BACKGROUND STUDY. "Background study" means the review of records conducted by the commissioner to determine whether a subject is disqualified from direct contact with persons served by a program and, where specifically provided in statutes, whether a subject is disqualified from having access to persons served by a program.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

Subd. 6. CHILD. "Child" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 4.

Subd. 7. COMMISSIONER. "Commissioner" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 5.

Subd. 8. CONTINUOUS, DIRECT SUPERVISION. "Continuous, direct supervision" means an individual is within sight or hearing of the program's supervising individual to the extent that the program's supervising individual is capable at all times of intervening to protect the health and safety of the persons served by the program.

Subd. 9. CONTRACTOR. "Contractor" means any individual, regardless of employer, who is providing program services for hire under the control of the provider.

Subd. 10. COUNTY AGENCY. "County agency" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 6.

Subd. 11. DIRECT CONTACT. "Direct contact" means providing face-to-face care, training, supervision, counseling, consultation, or medication assistance to persons served by the program.

Subd. 12. LICENSE. "License" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 8.

Subd. 13. LICENSE HOLDER. "License holder" has the meaning given in section 245A.02, subdivision 9.

Subd. 14. PERSON. "Person" means a child as defined in subdivision 6 or an adult as defined in section 245A.02, subdivision 2.

Subd. 15. REASONABLE CAUSE. "Reasonable cause" means information or circumstances exist which provide the commissioner with articulable suspicion that further pertinent information may exist concerning a subject. The commissioner has reasonable cause when, but not limited to, the commissioner has received a report from the subject, the license holder, or a third party indicating that the subject has a history that would disqualify the individual or that may pose a risk to the health or safety of persons receiving services.

Subd. 16. RECURRING MALTREATMENT. "Recurring maltreatment" means more than one incident of maltreatment for which there is a preponderance of evidence that the maltreatment occurred and that the subject was responsible for the maltreatment.

Subd. 17. REGISTRANT. "Registrant" means an individual who operates a supplemental nursing services agency and who registers the agency with the commissioner of health under section 144A.71, subdivision 1.

Subd. 18. SERIOUS MALTREATMENT. (a) "Serious maltreatment" means sexual abuse, maltreatment resulting in death, maltreatment resulting in serious injury which reasonably requires the care of a physician whether or not the care of a physician was sought, or abuse resulting in serious injury.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(b) For purposes of this definition, "care of a physician" is treatment received or ordered by a physician but does not include diagnostic testing, assessment, or observation.

(c) For purposes of this definition, "abuse resulting in serious injury" means: bruises, bites, skin laceration, or tissue damage; fractures; dislocations; evidence of internal injuries; head injuries with loss of consciousness; extensive second-degree or third-degree burns and other burns for which complications are present; extensive second-degree or third-degree frostbite and other frostbite for which complications are present; irreversible mobility or avulsion of teeth; injuries to the eyes; ingestion of foreign substances and objects that are harmful; near drowning; and heat exhaustion or sunstroke.

Subd. 19. SUBJECT OF A BACKGROUND STUDY. "Subject of a background study" means an individual on whom a background study is required or completed.

**Sec. 3. [245C.03] BACKGROUND STUDY; INDIVIDUALS TO BE STUDIED.**

Subdivision 1. LICENSED PROGRAMS. The commissioner shall conduct a background study on:

- (1) the applicant;
- (2) an individual age 13 and over living in the household where the licensed program will be provided;
- (3) current employees or contractors of the applicant who will have direct contact with persons served by the facility, agency, or program;
- (4) volunteers or student volunteers who will have direct contact with persons served by the program to provide program services if the contact is not under the continuous, direct supervision by an individual listed in clause (1) or (3);
- (5) an individual age ten to 12 living in the household where the licensed services will be provided when the commissioner has reasonable cause; and
- (6) an individual who, without providing direct contact services at a licensed program, may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults receiving services from a program licensed to provide:

- (i) family child care for children;
- (ii) foster care for children in the provider's own home; or
- (iii) foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's own home.

The commissioner must have reasonable cause to study an individual under this clause.

Subd. 2. PERSONAL CARE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS. The commissioner shall conduct background studies on any individual required under section 256B.0627 to have a background study completed under this chapter.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.

Subd. 3. SUPPLEMENTAL NURSING SERVICES AGENCIES. The commissioner shall conduct all background studies required under this chapter and initiated by supplemental nursing services agencies registered under section 144A.71, subdivision 1.

Subd. 4. PERSONNEL AGENCIES; EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS; PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGENCIES. The commissioner also may conduct studies on individuals specified in subdivision 1, clauses (3) and (4), when the studies are initiated by:

- (1) personnel pool agencies;
- (2) temporary personnel agencies;
- (3) educational programs that train individuals by providing direct contact services in licensed programs; and
- (4) professional services agencies that are not licensed and which contract with licensed programs to provide direct contact services or individuals who provide direct contact services.

**Sec. 4. [245C.04] WHEN BACKGROUND STUDY MUST OCCUR.**

Subdivision 1. LICENSED PROGRAMS. (a) The commissioner shall conduct a background study of an individual required to be studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, at least upon application for initial license for all license types.

(b) The commissioner shall conduct a background study of an individual required to be studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, at reapplication for a license for family child care, child foster care, and adult foster care.

(c) The commissioner is not required to conduct a study of an individual at the time of reapplication for a license if the individual's background study was completed by the commissioner of human services for an adult foster care license holder that is also:

- (1) registered under chapter 144D; or
- (2) licensed to provide home and community-based services to people with disabilities at the foster care location and the license holder does not reside in the foster care residence; and
- (3) the following conditions are met:
  - (i) a study of the individual was conducted either at the time of initial licensure or when the individual became affiliated with the license holder;
  - (ii) the individual has been continuously affiliated with the license holder since the last study was conducted; and
  - (iii) the last study of the individual was conducted on or after October 1, 1995.
- (d) Applicants for licensure, license holders, and other entities as provided in this chapter must submit completed background study forms to the commissioner before

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

individuals specified in section 245C.03, subdivision 1, begin positions allowing direct contact in any licensed program.

(e) For purposes of this section, a physician licensed under chapter 147 is considered to be continuously affiliated upon the license holder's receipt from the commissioner of health or human services of the physician's background study results.

**Subd. 2. OTHER STATE AGENCIES.** Applicants and license holders under the jurisdiction of other state agencies who are required in other statutory sections to initiate background studies under this chapter must submit completed background study forms to the commissioner before the background study subject begins in a position allowing direct contact in the licensed program or, where applicable, prior to being employed.

**Subd. 3. PERSONAL CARE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS.** (a) The commissioner shall conduct a background study of an individual required to be studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 2, at least upon application for initial enrollment under section 256B.0627.

(b) Organizations required to initiate background studies under section 256B.0627 for individuals described in section 245C.03, subdivision 2, must submit a completed background study form to the commissioner before those individuals begin a position allowing direct contact with persons served by the organization.

**Subd. 4. SUPPLEMENTAL NURSING SERVICES AGENCIES.** (a) The commissioner shall conduct a background study of an individual required to be studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 3, at least upon application for registration under section 144A.71, subdivision 1.

(b) Each supplemental nursing services agency must initiate background studies before an individual begins a position allowing direct contact with persons served by the agency and annually thereafter.

**Subd. 5. PERSONNEL AGENCIES; EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS; PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGENCIES.** Agencies, programs, and individuals who initiate background studies under section 245C.03, subdivision 4, must initiate the studies annually.

**Sec. 5. [245C.05] BACKGROUND STUDY; INFORMATION AND DATA PROVIDED TO COMMISSIONER.**

**Subdivision 1. INDIVIDUAL STUDIED.** The individual who is the subject of the background study must provide the applicant, license holder, or other entity under section 245C.04 with sufficient information to ensure an accurate study, including:

- (1) the individual's first, middle, and last name and all other names by which the individual has been known;
- (2) home address, city, county, and state of residence for the past five years;
- (3) zip code;

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.**

- (4) sex;
- (5) date of birth; and
- (6) driver's license number or state identification number.

**Subd. 2. APPLICANT, LICENSE HOLDER, OR OTHER ENTITY.** The applicant, license holder, or other entity under section 245C.04 shall provide the information collected under subdivision 1 about an individual who is the subject of the background study on forms prescribed by the commissioner.

**Subd. 3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUAL STUDIED.** The commissioner may request additional information of the individual, such as the individual's social security number or race. The individual is not required to provide this information to the commissioner.

**Subd. 4. ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.** For background studies conducted by the department of human services, the commissioner shall implement a system for the electronic transmission of:

- (1) background study information to the commissioner; and
- (2) background study results to the license holder.

**Subd. 5. FINGERPRINTS.** (a) When the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that further pertinent information may exist on the subject of the background study, the subject shall provide the commissioner with a set of classifiable fingerprints obtained from an authorized law enforcement agency.

(b) For purposes of requiring fingerprints, the commissioner has reasonable cause when, but not limited to, the:

- (1) information from the bureau of criminal apprehension indicates that the subject is a multistate offender;
- (2) information from the bureau of criminal apprehension indicates that multistate offender status is undetermined; or
- (3) commissioner has received a report from the subject or a third party indicating that the subject has a criminal history in a jurisdiction other than Minnesota.

**Subd. 6. APPLICANT, LICENSE HOLDER, REGISTRANT, AND AGENCIES.** (a) The applicant, license holder, registrant, bureau of criminal apprehension, commissioner of health, and county agencies shall help with the study by giving the commissioner criminal conviction data and reports about the maltreatment of adults substantiated under section 626.557 and the maltreatment of minors in licensed programs substantiated under section 626.556.

(b) If a background study is initiated by an applicant or license holder and the applicant or license holder receives information about the possible criminal or maltreatment history of an individual who is the subject of the background study, the applicant or license holder must immediately provide the information to the commissioner.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(c) The program or county or other agency must provide written notice to the individual who is the subject of the background study of the requirements under this subdivision.

**Subd. 7. PROBATION OFFICER AND CORRECTIONS AGENT.** (a) A probation officer or corrections agent shall notify the commissioner of an individual's conviction if the individual is:

(1) affiliated with a program or facility regulated by the department of human services or department of health, or any type of home care agency or provider of personal care assistance services; and

(2) convicted of a crime constituting a disqualification under section 245C.14.

(b) For the purpose of this subdivision, "conviction" has the meaning given it in section 609.02, subdivision 5.

(c) The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of corrections, shall develop forms and information necessary to implement this subdivision and shall provide the forms and information to the commissioner of corrections for distribution to local probation officers and corrections agents.

(d) The commissioner shall inform individuals subject to a background study that criminal convictions for disqualifying crimes will be reported to the commissioner by the corrections system.

(e) A probation officer, corrections agent, or corrections agency is not civilly or criminally liable for disclosing or failing to disclose the information required by this subdivision.

(f) Upon receipt of disqualifying information, the commissioner shall provide the notice required under section 245C.17, as appropriate, to agencies on record as having initiated a background study or making a request for documentation of the background study status of the individual.

(g) This subdivision does not apply to family child care and child foster care programs.

**Sec. 6. [245C.06] INDIVIDUAL PREVIOUSLY STUDIED.**

Subdivision 1. FACILITY REQUEST. At the option of the licensed facility, rather than initiating another background study on an individual required to be studied who has indicated to the licensed facility that a background study by the commissioner was previously completed, the facility may make a request to the commissioner for documentation of the individual's background study status, provided that:

(1) the facility makes this request using a form provided by the commissioner;

(2) in making the request, the facility informs the commissioner that either:

(i) the individual has been continuously affiliated with a licensed facility since the individual's previous background study was completed, or since October 1, 1995, whichever is shorter; or

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.**

(ii) the individual is affiliated only with a personnel pool agency, a temporary personnel agency, an educational program that trains individuals by providing direct contact services in licensed programs, or a professional services agency that is not licensed and which contracts with licensed programs to provide direct contact services or individuals who provide direct contact services; and

(3) the facility provides notices to the individual as required under section 245C.05, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), and that the facility is requesting written notification of the individual's background study status from the commissioner.

**Subd. 2. COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSE.** The commissioner shall respond to each request under subdivision 1 with a written or electronic notice to the facility and the study subject. If the commissioner determines that a background study is necessary, the commissioner shall complete the study without further request from a licensed agency or notifications to the study subject.

**Sec. 7. [245C.07] STUDY SUBJECT AFFILIATED WITH MULTIPLE LICENSED FACILITIES.**

When a background study is being initiated by a licensed facility or a foster care provider that is also registered under chapter 144D, a study subject affiliated with multiple licensed facilities may attach to the background study form a cover letter indicating the additional facilities' names, addresses, and background study identification numbers.

When the commissioner receives a notice, the commissioner shall notify each facility identified by the background study subject of the study results.

The background study notice the commissioner sends to the subsequent agencies shall satisfy those facilities' responsibilities for initiating a background study on that individual.

**Sec. 8. [245C.08] BACKGROUND STUDY; INFORMATION COMMISSIONER REVIEWS.**

**Subdivision 1. BACKGROUND STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES.** For a background study conducted by the commissioner, the commissioner shall review:

(1) information related to names of substantiated perpetrators of maltreatment of vulnerable adults that has been received by the commissioner as required under section 626.557, subdivision 9c, paragraph (i);

(2) the commissioner's records relating to the maltreatment of minors in licensed programs;

(3) information from juvenile courts as required in subdivision 4 for individuals listed in section 245C.03, subdivision 1, clauses (2), (5), and (6); and

(4) information from the bureau of criminal apprehension.

**Subd. 2. BACKGROUND STUDIES CONDUCTED BY A COUNTY OR PRIVATE AGENCY; FOSTER CARE AND FAMILY CHILD CARE.** For a

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.



background study conducted by a county or private agency for child foster care, adult foster care, and family child care homes, the commissioner shall review:

(1) information from the county agency's record of substantiated maltreatment of adults and the maltreatment of minors;

(2) information from juvenile courts as required in subdivision 4 for individuals listed in section 245C.03, subdivision 1, clauses (2), (5), and (6); and

(3) information from the bureau of criminal apprehension.

Subd. 3. ARREST AND INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION. (a) If the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe the information is pertinent to the disqualification of an individual listed in section 245C.03, subdivisions 1 and 2, the commissioner also may review arrest and investigative information from:

(1) the bureau of criminal apprehension;

(2) the commissioner of health;

(3) a county attorney;

(4) a county sheriff;

(5) a county agency;

(6) a local chief of police;

(7) other states;

(8) the courts; or

(9) the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) The commissioner is not required to conduct more than one review of a subject's records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation if a review of the subject's criminal history with the Federal Bureau of Investigation has already been completed by the commissioner and there has been no break in the subject's affiliation with the license holder who initiated the background study.

Subd. 4. JUVENILE COURT RECORDS. (a) The commissioner shall review records from the juvenile courts for an individual studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, clauses (2) and (5).

(b) For individuals studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, clauses (1), (3), (4), and (6), and subdivision 2, who are ages 13 to 17, the commissioner shall review records from the juvenile courts when the commissioner has reasonable cause.

(c) The juvenile courts shall help with the study by giving the commissioner existing juvenile court records on individuals described in section 245C.03, subdivision 1, clauses (2), (5), and (6), relating to delinquency proceedings held within either the five years immediately preceding the background study or the five years immediately preceding the individual's 18th birthday, whichever time period is longer.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(d) For purposes of this chapter, a finding that a delinquency petition is proven in juvenile court shall be considered a conviction in state district court.

(e) The commissioner shall destroy juvenile records obtained under this subdivision when the subject of the records reaches age 23.

**Sec. 9. [245C.09] FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO COOPERATE WITH BACKGROUND STUDY.**

Subdivision 1. DISQUALIFICATION; LICENSING ACTION. An applicant's, license holder's, or registrant's failure or refusal to cooperate with the commissioner is reasonable cause to disqualify a subject, deny a license application, or immediately suspend or revoke a license or registration.

Subd. 2. EMPLOYMENT ACTION. An individual's failure or refusal to cooperate with the background study is just cause for denying or terminating employment of the individual if the individual's failure or refusal to cooperate could cause the applicant's application to be denied or the license holder's license to be immediately suspended or revoked.

**Sec. 10. [245C.10] BACKGROUND STUDY; FEES.**

Subdivision 1. SUBJECT OF A BACKGROUND STUDY. No applicant, license holder, or individual who is the subject of a background study shall pay any fees required to conduct the study.

Subd. 2. SUPPLEMENTAL NURSING SERVICES AGENCIES. The commissioner shall recover the cost of the background studies initiated by supplemental nursing services agencies registered under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, through a fee of no more than \$8 per study charged to the agency. The fees collected under this subdivision are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies.

Subd. 3. PERSONAL CARE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS. The commissioner shall recover the cost of background studies initiated by a personal care provider organization under section 256B.0627 through a fee of no more than \$12 per study charged to the organization responsible for submitting the background study form. The fees collected under this subdivision are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies.

**Sec. 11. [245C.11] BACKGROUND STUDY; COUNTY AGENCIES.**

Subdivision 1. FOSTER CARE; CRIMINAL CONVICTION DATA. For individuals who are required to have background studies under section 245C.03, subdivisions 1 and 2, and who have been continuously affiliated with a foster care provider that is licensed in more than one county, criminal conviction data may be shared among those counties in which the foster care programs are licensed. A county agency's receipt of criminal conviction data from another county agency shall meet the criminal data background study requirements of this chapter.

Subd. 2. JOINTLY LICENSED PROGRAMS. A county agency may accept a background study completed by the commissioner under this chapter in place of the

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

background study required under section 245A.16, subdivision 3, in programs with joint licensure as home and community-based services and adult foster care for people with developmental disabilities when the license holder does not reside in the foster care residence and the subject of the study has been continuously affiliated with the license holder since the date of the commissioner's study.

Subd. 3. CRIMINAL HISTORY DATA. County agencies shall have access to the criminal history data in the same manner as county licensing agencies under this chapter for purposes of background studies completed by county agencies on legal nonlicensed child care providers to determine eligibility for child care funds under chapter 119B.

**Sec. 12. [245C.12] BACKGROUND STUDY; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

For the purposes of background studies completed by tribal organizations performing licensing activities otherwise required of the commissioner under this chapter, after obtaining consent from the background study subject, tribal licensing agencies shall have access to criminal history data in the same manner as county licensing agencies and private licensing agencies under this chapter.

**Sec. 13. [245C.13] PROCESSING THE BACKGROUND STUDY FORM.**

Subdivision 1. TIMING. Upon receipt of the background study forms from an applicant, license holder, registrant, agency, organization, program, or entity required to initiate a background study under section 245C.04, the commissioner shall complete the background study and provide the notice required under section 245C.17, subdivision 1, within 15 working days.

Subd. 2. DIRECT CONTACT PENDING COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND STUDY. Unless otherwise specified, the subject of a background study may have direct contact with persons served by a program after the background study form is mailed or submitted to the commissioner pending notification of the study results under section 245C.17.

**Sec. 14. [245C.14] DISQUALIFICATION.**

Subdivision 1. DISQUALIFICATION FROM DIRECT CONTACT. (a) The commissioner shall disqualify an individual who is the subject of a background study from any position allowing direct contact with persons receiving services from the license holder or entity identified in section 245C.03, upon receipt of information showing, or when a background study completed under this chapter shows any of the following:

- (1) a conviction of or admission to one or more crimes listed in section 245C.15;
- (2) a preponderance of the evidence indicates the individual has committed an act or acts that meet the definition of any of the crimes listed in section 245C.15; or
- (3) an investigation results in an administrative determination listed under section 245C.15, subdivision 4, paragraph (b).

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.

(b) No individual who is disqualified following a background study under section 245C.03, subdivisions 1 and 2, may be retained in a position involving direct contact with persons served by a program or entity identified in section 245C.03, unless the commissioner has provided written notice under section 245C.17 stating that:

(1) the individual may remain in direct contact during the period in which the individual may request reconsideration as provided in section 245C.21, subdivision 2;

(2) the commissioner has set aside the individual's disqualification for that program or entity identified in section 245C.03, as provided in section 245C.22, subdivision 4; or

(3) the license holder has been granted a variance for the disqualified individual under section 245C.30.

**Subd. 2. DISQUALIFICATION FROM ACCESS.** (a) If an individual who is studied under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, clauses (2), (5), and (6), is disqualified from direct contact under subdivision 1, the commissioner shall also disqualify the individual from access to a person receiving services from the license holder.

(b) No individual who is disqualified following a background study under section 245C.03, subdivision 1, clauses (2), (5), and (6), or as provided elsewhere in statute who is disqualified as a result of this section, may be allowed access to persons served by the program unless the commissioner has provided written notice under section 245C.17 stating that:

(1) the individual may remain in direct contact during the period in which the individual may request reconsideration as provided in section 245C.21, subdivision 2;

(2) the commissioner has set aside the individual's disqualification for that licensed program or entity identified in section 245C.03 as provided in section 245C.22, subdivision 4; or

(3) the license holder has been granted a variance for the disqualified individual under section 245C.30.

#### **Sec. 15. [245C.15] DISQUALIFYING CRIMES OR CONDUCT.**

**Subdivision 1. PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if: (1) regardless of how much time has passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and (2) unless otherwise specified, regardless of the level of the conviction, the individual is convicted of any of the following offenses: sections 609.185 (murder in the first degree); 609.19 (murder in the second degree); 609.195 (murder in the third degree); 609.20 (manslaughter in the first degree); 609.205 (manslaughter in the second degree); 609.221 or 609.222 (assault in the first or second degree); a felony offense under sections 609.2242 and 609.2243 (domestic assault), spousal abuse, child abuse or neglect, or a crime against children; 609.228 (great bodily harm caused by distribution of drugs); 609.245 (aggravated robbery); 609.25 (kidnapping); 609.2661 (murder of an unborn child in the first degree); 609.2662 (murder of an unborn child in the second degree); 609.2663 (murder of an unborn child in the third degree); 609.322 (solicitation, inducement, and

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.**

promotion of prostitution); a felony offense under 609.324, subdivision 1 (other prohibited acts); 609.342 (criminal sexual conduct in the first degree); 609.343 (criminal sexual conduct in the second degree); 609.344 (criminal sexual conduct in the third degree); 609.345 (criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree); 609.352 (solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct); 609.365 (incest); a felony offense under 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); a felony offense under 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child); 609.561 (arson in the first degree); 609.66, subdivision 1e (drive-by shooting); 609.749, subdivision 3, 4, or 5 (felony-level harassment; stalking); 609.855, subdivision 5 (shooting at or in a public transit vehicle or facility); 617.246 (use of minors in sexual performance prohibited); or 617.247 (possession of pictorial representations of minors). An individual also is disqualified under section 245C.14 regardless of how much time has passed since the involuntary termination of the individual's parental rights under section 260C.301.

(b) An individual's attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in paragraph (a), as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes, permanently disqualifies the individual under section 245C.14.

(c) An individual's offense in any other state or country, where the elements of the offense are substantially similar to any of the offenses listed in paragraph (a), permanently disqualifies the individual under section 245C.14.

**Subd. 2. 15-YEAR DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if: (1) less than 15 years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and (2) the individual has received a felony conviction for a violation of any of the following offenses: sections 260C.301 (grounds for termination of parental rights); 609.165 (felon ineligible to possess firearm); 609.21 (criminal vehicular homicide and injury); 609.215 (suicide); 609.223 or 609.2231 (assault in the third or fourth degree); repeat offenses under 609.224 (assault in the fifth degree); 609.2325 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult); 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult); 609.235 (use of drugs to injure or facilitate crime); 609.24 (simple robbery); 609.255 (false imprisonment); 609.2664 (manslaughter of an unborn child in the first degree); 609.2665 (manslaughter of an unborn child in the second degree); 609.267 (assault of an unborn child in the first degree); 609.2671 (assault of an unborn child in the second degree); 609.268 (injury or death of an unborn child in the commission of a crime); 609.27 (coercion); 609.275 (attempt to coerce); repeat offenses under 609.3451 (criminal sexual conduct in the fifth degree); 609.498, subdivision 1 or 1b (aggravated first degree or first degree tampering with a witness); 609.52 (theft); 609.521 (possession of shoplifting gear); 609.562 (arson in the second degree); 609.563 (arson in the third degree); 609.582 (burglary); 609.625 (aggravated forgery); 609.63 (forgery); 609.631 (check forgery; offering a forged check); 609.635 (obtaining signature by false pretense); 609.66 (dangerous weapons); 609.67 (machine guns and short-barreled shotguns); 609.687 (adulteration); 609.71 (riot); 609.713 (terroristic threats); repeat offenses under 617.23 (indecent exposure; penalties); repeat offenses under 617.241 (obscene materials and performances; distribution and exhibition prohibited; penalty); chapter 152 (drugs; controlled substance); or a felony level conviction involving alcohol or drug use.

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.**

(b) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if less than 15 years has passed since the individual's attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in paragraph (a), as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes.

(c) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if less than 15 years has passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for an offense in any other state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of the offenses listed in paragraph (a).

(d) If the individual studied is convicted of one of the felonies listed in paragraph (a), but the sentence is a gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor disposition, the lookback period for the conviction is the period applicable to the gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor disposition.

**Subd. 3. TEN-YEAR DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if: (1) less than ten years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and (2) the individual has received a gross misdemeanor conviction for a violation of any of the following offenses: sections 609.224 (assault in the fifth degree); 609.224, subdivision 2, paragraph (c) (assault in the fifth degree by a caregiver against a vulnerable adult); 609.2242 and 609.2243 (domestic assault); 609.23 (mistreatment of persons confined); 609.231 (mistreatment of residents or patients); 609.2325 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult); 609.233 (criminal neglect of a vulnerable adult); 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult); 609.234 (failure to report maltreatment of a vulnerable adult); 609.265 (abduction); 609.275 (attempt to coerce); 609.324, subdivision 1a (other prohibited acts; minor engaged in prostitution); 609.33 (disorderly house); 609.3451 (criminal sexual conduct in the fifth degree); 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child); 609.52 (theft); 609.582 (burglary); 609.631 (check forgery; offering a forged check); 609.66 (dangerous weapons); 609.71 (riot); 609.72, subdivision 3 (disorderly conduct against a vulnerable adult); repeat offenses under 609.746 (interference with privacy); 609.749, subdivision 2 (harassment; stalking); repeat offenses under 617.23 (indecent exposure); 617.241 (obscene materials and performances); 617.243 (indecent literature, distribution); 617.293 (harmful materials; dissemination and display to minors prohibited); or violation of an order for protection under 518B.01, subdivision 14.

(b) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if less than ten years has passed since the individual's attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in paragraph (a), as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes.

(c) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if less than ten years has passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for an offense in any other state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any of the offenses listed in paragraph (a).

(d) If the defendant is convicted of one of the gross misdemeanors listed in paragraph (a), but the sentence is a misdemeanor disposition, the lookback period for the conviction is the period applicable to misdemeanors.

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.**

Subd. 4. SEVEN-YEAR DISQUALIFICATION. (a) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if: (1) less than seven years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and (2) the individual has received a misdemeanor conviction for a violation of any of the following offenses: sections 609.224 (assault in the fifth degree); 609.2242 (domestic assault); 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult); 609.234 (failure to report maltreatment of a vulnerable adult); 609.2672 (assault of an unborn child in the third degree); 609.27 (coercion); violation of an order for protection under 609.3232 (protective order authorized; procedures; penalties); 609.52 (theft); 609.66 (dangerous weapons); 609.665 (spring guns); 609.746 (interference with privacy); 609.79 (obscene or harassing phone calls); 609.795 (letter, telegram, or package; opening; harassment); 617.23 (indecent exposure; penalties); 617.293 (harmful materials; dissemination and display to minors prohibited); or violation of an order for protection under 518B.01 (Domestic Abuse Act).

(b) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if less than seven years has passed since a determination or disposition of the individual's:

(1) failure to make required reports under section 626.556, subdivision 3, or 626.557, subdivision 3, for incidents in which: (i) the final disposition under section 626.556 or 626.557 was substantiated maltreatment, and (ii) the maltreatment was recurring or serious; or

(2) substantiated serious or recurring maltreatment of a minor under section 626.556 or of a vulnerable adult under section 626.557 for which: (i) there is a preponderance of evidence that the maltreatment occurred, and (ii) the subject was responsible for the maltreatment.

(c) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if less than seven years has passed since the individual's attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in paragraphs (a) and (b), as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes.

(d) An individual is disqualified under section 245C.14 if less than seven years has passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for an offense in any other state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any of the offenses listed in paragraphs (a) and (b).

Subd. 5. MENTAL ILLNESS. The commissioner may not disqualify an individual subject to a background study under this chapter because that individual has, or has had, a mental illness as defined in section 245.462, subdivision 20.

#### **Sec. 16. [245C.16] DISQUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL'S RISK OF HARM.**

Subdivision 1. DETERMINING IMMEDIATE RISK OF HARM. (a) If the commissioner determines that the individual studied has a disqualifying characteristic, the commissioner shall review the information immediately available and make a determination as to the subject's immediate risk of harm to persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact.

(b) The commissioner shall consider all relevant information available, including the following factors in determining the immediate risk of harm:

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

- (1) the recency of the disqualifying characteristic;
- (2) the recency of discharge from probation for the crimes;
- (3) the number of disqualifying characteristics;
- (4) the intrusiveness or violence of the disqualifying characteristic;
- (5) the vulnerability of the victim involved in the disqualifying characteristic; and
- (6) the similarity of the victim to the persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact.

(c) This section does not apply when the subject of a background study is regulated by a health-related licensing board as defined in chapter 214, and the subject is determined to be responsible for substantiated maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557.

Subd. 2. FINDINGS. (a) After evaluating the information immediately available under subdivision 1, the commissioner may have reason to believe one of the following:

(1) the individual poses an imminent risk of harm to persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact;

(2) the individual poses a risk of harm requiring continuous, direct supervision while providing direct contact services during the period in which the subject may request a reconsideration; or

(3) the individual does not pose an imminent risk of harm or a risk of harm requiring continuous, direct supervision while providing direct contact services during the period in which the subject may request a reconsideration.

(b) After determining an individual's risk of harm under this section, the commissioner must notify the subject of the background study and the applicant or license holder as required under section 245C.17.

Subd. 3. COUNTY AGENCY. (a) County licensing agencies performing duties under this section may develop an alternative system for determining the subject's immediate risk of harm to persons served by the program, providing the notices under subdivision 2, paragraph (b), and documenting the action taken by the county licensing agency.

(b) Each county licensing agency's implementation of the alternative system is subject to approval by the commissioner.

(c) Notwithstanding this alternative system, county licensing agencies shall complete the requirements of section 245C.17.

#### **Sec. 17. [245C.17] NOTICE OF BACKGROUND STUDY RESULTS.**

Subdivision 1. TIME FRAME FOR NOTICE OF STUDY RESULTS. (a) Within 15 working days after the commissioner's receipt of the background study form, the commissioner shall notify the individual who is the subject of the study in

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.



writing or by electronic transmission of the results of the study or that more time is needed to complete the study.

(b) Within 15 working days after the commissioner's receipt of the background study form, the commissioner shall notify the applicant, license holder, or registrant in writing or by electronic transmission of the results of the study or that more time is needed to complete the study.

**Subd. 2. DISQUALIFICATION NOTICE SENT TO SUBJECT.** (a) If the information in the study indicates the individual is disqualified from direct contact with, or from access to, persons served by the program, the commissioner shall disclose to the individual studied:

- (1) the information causing disqualification;
- (2) instructions on how to request a reconsideration of the disqualification; and
- (3) the commissioner's determination of the individual's risk of harm under section 245C.16.

(b) If the commissioner determines under section 245C.16 that an individual poses an imminent risk of harm to persons served by the program where the individual will have direct contact, the commissioner's notice must include an explanation of the basis of this determination.

(c) If the commissioner determines under section 245C.16 that an individual studied does not pose a risk of harm that requires continuous, direct supervision, the commissioner shall only notify the individual of the disqualification.

**Subd. 3. DISQUALIFICATION NOTICE SENT TO APPLICANT, LICENSE HOLDER, OR REGISTRANT.** (a) The commissioner shall notify an applicant, license holder, or registrant who is not the subject of the study:

- (1) that the commissioner has found information that disqualifies the individual studied from direct contact with, or from access to, persons served by the program; and
- (2) the commissioner's determination of the individual's risk of harm under section 245C.16.

(b) If the commissioner determines under section 245C.16 that an individual studied poses an imminent risk of harm to persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact, the commissioner shall order the license holder to immediately remove the individual studied from direct contact.

(c) If the commissioner determines under section 245C.16 that an individual studied poses a risk of harm that requires continuous, direct supervision, the commissioner shall order the license holder to:

- (1) immediately remove the individual studied from direct contact services; or
- (2) assure that the individual studied is under continuous, direct supervision when providing direct contact services during the period in which the individual may request a reconsideration of the disqualification under section 245C.21.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(d) If the commissioner determines under section 245C.16 that an individual studied does not pose a risk of harm that requires continuous, direct supervision, the commissioner shall send the license holder a notice that more time is needed to complete the individual's background study.

(e) The commissioner shall not notify the applicant, license holder, or registrant of the information contained in the subject's background study unless:

(1) the basis for the disqualification is failure to cooperate with the background study or substantiated maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557;

(2) the Data Practices Act under chapter 13 provides for release of the information; or

(3) the individual studied authorizes the release of the information.

**Subd. 4. DISQUALIFICATION NOTICE TO FAMILY CHILD CARE OR FOSTER CARE PROVIDER.** For studies on individuals pertaining to a license to provide family child care or group family child care, foster care for children in the provider's own home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's own home, the commissioner is not required to provide a separate notice of the background study results to the individual who is the subject of the study unless the study results in a disqualification of the individual.

**Sec. 18. [245C.18] OBLIGATION TO REMOVE DISQUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL FROM DIRECT CONTACT.**

The license holder must remove a disqualified individual from direct contact with persons served by the licensed program if the individual does not request reconsideration under section 245C.21 within the prescribed time, or if the individual submits a timely request for reconsideration, and the commissioner does not set aside the disqualification under section 245C.22, subdivision 4.

**Sec. 19. [245C.19] TERMINATION OF AFFILIATION BASED ON DISQUALIFICATION NOTICE.**

An applicant or license holder that terminates affiliation with persons studied under section 245C.03, when the termination is made in good faith reliance on a notice of disqualification provided by the commissioner, shall not be subject to civil liability.

**Sec. 20. [245C.20] LICENSE HOLDER RECORD KEEPING.**

When a background study is completed under this chapter, a licensed program shall maintain a notice that the study was undertaken and completed in the program's personnel files.

**Sec. 21. [245C.21] REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION OF DISQUALIFICATION.**

Subdivision 1. WHO MAY REQUEST RECONSIDERATION. An individual who is the subject of a disqualification may request a reconsideration of the

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

disqualification. The individual must submit the request for reconsideration to the commissioner in writing.

**Subd. 2. TIME FRAME FOR REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION OF A DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) When the commissioner sends an individual a notice of disqualification based on a finding under section 245C.16, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2), the disqualified individual must submit the request for a reconsideration within 30 calendar days of the individual's receipt of the notice of disqualification. Upon showing that the information under subdivision 3 cannot be obtained within 30 days, the disqualified individual may request additional time, not to exceed 30 days, to obtain the information.

(b) When the commissioner sends an individual a notice of disqualification based on a finding under section 245C.16, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (3), the disqualified individual must submit the request for reconsideration within 15 calendar days of the individual's receipt of the notice of disqualification.

(c) An individual who was determined to have maltreated a child under section 626.556 or a vulnerable adult under section 626.557, and who is disqualified on the basis of serious or recurring maltreatment, may request a reconsideration of both the maltreatment and the disqualification determinations. The request must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the individual's receipt of the notice of disqualification.

**Subd. 3. INFORMATION THE DISQUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL MUST PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSIONER WHEN REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION.** The disqualified individual must submit information showing that:

(1) the information the commissioner relied upon in determining the underlying conduct that gave rise to the disqualification is incorrect;

(2) for maltreatment, the information the commissioner relied upon in determining that maltreatment was serious or recurring is incorrect; or

(3) the subject of the study does not pose a risk of harm to any person served by the applicant, license holder, or registrant.

**Sec. 22. [245C.22] REVIEW AND ACTION BY THE COMMISSIONER ON A RECONSIDERATION REQUEST.**

**Subdivision 1. COMMISSIONER'S TIME FRAME FOR RESPONDING TO DISQUALIFICATION RECONSIDERATION REQUESTS.** (a) The commissioner shall respond in writing or by electronic transmission to all reconsideration requests for which the basis for the request is that the information the commissioner relied upon to disqualify is incorrect or inaccurate within 30 working days of receipt of a request and all relevant information.

(b) If the basis for a disqualified individual's reconsideration request is that the individual does not pose a risk of harm, the commissioner shall respond to the request within 15 working days after receiving the request for reconsideration and all relevant information.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(c) If the disqualified individual's reconsideration request is based on both the correctness or accuracy of the information the commissioner relied upon to disqualify the individual and the individual's risk of harm, the commissioner shall respond to the request within 45 working days after receiving the request for reconsideration and all relevant information.

Subd. 2. INCORRECT INFORMATION; RESCISSION. The commissioner shall rescind the disqualification if the commissioner finds that the information relied upon to disqualify the subject is incorrect.

Subd. 3. PREEMINENT WEIGHT TO THE SAFETY OF PERSONS BEING SERVED. In reviewing a request for reconsideration of a disqualification, the commissioner shall give preeminent weight to the safety of each person served by the license holder, applicant, or registrant over the interests of the license holder, applicant, or registrant.

Subd. 4. RISK OF HARM; SET ASIDE. (a) The commissioner may set aside the disqualification if the commissioner finds that the individual does not pose a risk of harm to any person served by the applicant, license holder, or registrant.

(b) In determining if the individual does not pose a risk of harm, the commissioner shall consider:

(1) the nature, severity, and consequences of the event or events that led to the disqualification;

(2) whether there is more than one disqualifying event;

(3) the age and vulnerability of the victim at the time of the event;

(4) the harm suffered by the victim;

(5) the similarity between the victim and persons served by the program;

(6) the time elapsed without a repeat of the same or similar event;

(7) documentation of successful completion by the individual studied of training or rehabilitation pertinent to the event; and

(8) any other information relevant to reconsideration.

#### **Sec. 23. [245C.23] COMMISSIONER'S RECONSIDERATION NOTICE.**

**Subdivision 1. COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE OF DISQUALIFICATION THAT IS SET ASIDE.** (a) If the commissioner sets aside a disqualification, the commissioner shall notify the applicant or license holder in writing or by electronic transmission of the decision. In the notice from the commissioner that a disqualification has been set aside, the commissioner must inform the license holder that information about the nature of the disqualification and which factors under section 245C.22, subdivision 4, were the basis of the decision to set aside the disqualification are available to the license holder upon request without the consent of the background study subject.

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.**

(b) With the written consent of the background study subject, the commissioner may release to the license holder copies of all information related to the background study subject's disqualification and the commissioner's decision to set aside the disqualification as specified in the written consent.

(c) If the individual studied submits a timely request for reconsideration under section 245C.21, and if the commissioner sets aside the disqualification for that license holder under section 245C.22, the commissioner shall send the license holder the same notification received by license holders in cases where the individual studied has no disqualifying characteristic.

**Subd. 2. COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE OF DISQUALIFICATION THAT IS NOT SET ASIDE.** If the individual studied does not submit a timely request for reconsideration under section 245C.21, or the individual submits a timely request for reconsideration, but the commissioner does not set aside the disqualification for that license holder under section 245C.22, the commissioner shall notify the license holder of the disqualification and order the license holder to immediately remove the individual from any position allowing direct contact with persons receiving services from the license holder.

**Sec. 24. [245C.24] BARS TO SETTING ASIDE A DISQUALIFICATION; FAMILY CHILD CARE AND FOSTER CARE.**

**Subdivision 1. MINIMUM DISQUALIFICATION PERIODS.** The disqualification periods under subdivisions 3 and 4 are the minimum applicable disqualification periods. The commissioner may determine that an individual should continue to be disqualified from licensure because the individual continues to pose a risk of harm to persons served by that individual, even after the minimum disqualification period has passed.

**Subd. 2. PERMANENT BAR TO SET ASIDE OF DISQUALIFICATION.** The commissioner may not set aside the disqualification of an individual in connection with a license to provide family child care for children, foster care for children in the provider's home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's home, regardless of how much time has passed, if the provider was disqualified for a crime or conduct listed in section 245C.15, subdivision 1.

**Subd. 3. TEN-YEAR BAR TO SET ASIDE OF DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) The commissioner may not set aside the disqualification of an individual in connection with a license to provide family child care for children, foster care for children in the provider's home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's home if: (1) less than ten years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and (2) the individual has been convicted of a violation of any of the following offenses: sections 609.165 (felon ineligible to possess firearm); criminal vehicular homicide under 609.21 (criminal vehicular homicide and injury); 609.215 (aiding suicide or aiding attempted suicide); felony violations under 609.223 or 609.2231 (assault in the third or fourth degree); 609.713 (terroristic threats); 609.235 (use of drugs to injure or to facilitate crime); 609.24 (simple robbery); 609.255 (false imprisonment); 609.562 (arson in the second degree); 609.71 (riot); 609.498, subdi-

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.

vision 1 or 1b (aggravated first degree or first degree tampering with a witness); burglary in the first or second degree under 609.582 (burglary); 609.66 (dangerous weapon); 609.665 (spring guns); 609.67 (machine guns and short-barreled shotguns); 609.749, subdivision 2 (gross misdemeanor harassment; stalking); 152.021 or 152.022 (controlled substance crime in the first or second degree); 152.023, subdivision 1, clause (3) or (4) or subdivision 2, clause (4) (controlled substance crime in the third degree); 152.024, subdivision 1, clause (2), (3), or (4) (controlled substance crime in the fourth degree); 609.224, subdivision 2, paragraph (c) (fifth-degree assault by a caregiver against a vulnerable adult); 609.23 (mistreatment of persons confined); 609.231 (mistreatment of residents or patients); 609.2325 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult); 609.233 (criminal neglect of a vulnerable adult); 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult); 609.234 (failure to report); 609.265 (abduction); 609.2664 to 609.2665 (manslaughter of an unborn child in the first or second degree); 609.267 to 609.2672 (assault of an unborn child in the first, second, or third degree); 609.268 (injury or death of an unborn child in the commission of a crime); 617.293 (disseminating or displaying harmful material to minors); a felony level conviction involving alcohol or drug use, a gross misdemeanor offense under 609.324, subdivision 1 (other prohibited acts); a gross misdemeanor offense under 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child); a gross misdemeanor offense under 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); or 609.72, subdivision 3 (disorderly conduct against a vulnerable adult).

(b) The commissioner may not set aside the disqualification of an individual if less than ten years have passed since the individual's attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in paragraph (a) as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes.

(c) The commissioner may not set aside the disqualification of an individual if less than ten years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for an offense in any other state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any of the offenses listed in paragraph (a).

**Subd. 4. SEVEN-YEAR BAR TO SET ASIDE DISQUALIFICATION.** The commissioner may not set aside the disqualification of an individual in connection with a license to provide family child care for children, foster care for children in the provider's home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's home if within seven years preceding the study:

(1) the individual committed an act that constitutes maltreatment of a child under section 626.556, subdivision 10e, and the maltreatment resulted in substantial bodily harm as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 7a, or substantial mental or emotional harm as supported by competent psychological or psychiatric evidence; or

(2) the individual was determined under section 626.557 to be the perpetrator of a substantiated incident of maltreatment of a vulnerable adult that resulted in substantial bodily harm as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 7a, or substantial mental or emotional harm as supported by competent psychological or psychiatric evidence.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.

**Sec. 25. [245C.25] CONSOLIDATED RECONSIDERATION OF MAL-TREATMENT DETERMINATION AND DISQUALIFICATION.**

If an individual is disqualified on the basis of a determination of maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, which was serious or recurring, and the individual requests reconsideration of the maltreatment determination under section 626.556, subdivision 10i, or 626.557, subdivision 9d, and also requests reconsideration of the disqualification under section 245C.21, the commissioner shall consolidate the reconsideration of the maltreatment determination and the disqualification into a single reconsideration.

For maltreatment and disqualification determinations made by county agencies, the county agency shall conduct the consolidated reconsideration. If the county agency has disqualified an individual on multiple bases, one of which is a county maltreatment determination for which the individual has a right to request reconsideration, the county shall conduct the reconsideration of all disqualifications.

**Sec. 26. [245C.26] RECONSIDERATION OF A DISQUALIFICATION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL LIVING IN A LICENSED HOME.**

In the case of any ground for disqualification under this chapter, if the act was committed by an individual other than the applicant, license holder, or registrant residing in the applicant's, license holder's, or registrant's home, the applicant, license holder, or registrant may seek reconsideration when the individual who committed the act no longer resides in the home.

**Sec. 27. [245C.27] FAIR HEARING RIGHTS.**

**Subdivision 1. FAIR HEARING WHEN DISQUALIFICATION IS NOT SET ASIDE.** (a) If the commissioner does not set aside or rescind a disqualification of an individual under section 245C.22 who is disqualified on the basis of a preponderance of evidence that the individual committed an act or acts that meet the definition of any of the crimes listed in section 245C.15; or for failure to make required reports under section 626.556, subdivision 3; or 626.557, subdivision 3, pursuant to section 245C.15, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), clause (1), the individual may request a fair hearing under section 256.045.

(b) The fair hearing is the only administrative appeal of the final agency determination. The disqualified individual does not have the right to challenge the accuracy and completeness of data under section 13.04.

(c) This section does not apply to a public employee's appeal of a disqualification under section 245C.28, subdivision 3.

**Subd. 2. CONSOLIDATED FAIR HEARING FOR MALTREATMENT DETERMINATION AND DISQUALIFICATION NOT SET ASIDE.** (a) If an individual who is disqualified on the bases of serious or recurring maltreatment requests a fair hearing on the maltreatment determination under section 626.556, subdivision 10i, or 626.557, subdivision 9d, and requests a fair hearing under this section on the disqualification, which has not been set aside or rescinded, the scope of

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

the fair hearing under section 256.045 shall include the maltreatment determination and the disqualification.

(b) A fair hearing is the only administrative appeal of the final agency determination. The disqualified individual does not have the right to challenge the accuracy and completeness of data under section 13.04.

(c) This section does not apply to a public employee's appeal of a disqualification under section 245C.28, subdivision 3.

#### **Sec. 28. [245C.28] CONTESTED CASE HEARING RIGHTS.**

Subdivision 1. LICENSE HOLDER. (a) If a maltreatment determination or a disqualification for which reconsideration was requested and which was not set aside or rescinded is the basis for a denial of a license under section 245A.05 or a licensing sanction under 245A.07, the license holder has the right to a contested case hearing under chapter 14 and Minnesota Rules, parts 1400.8505 to 1400.8612.

(b) The license holder must submit the appeal in accordance with section 245A.05 or 245A.07, subdivision 3. As provided under section 245A.08, subdivision 2a, the scope of the consolidated contested case hearing must include the disqualification and the licensing sanction or denial of a license.

(c) If the disqualification was based on a determination of substantiated serious or recurring maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, the appeal must be submitted in accordance with sections 245A.07, subdivision 3, and 626.556, subdivision 10i, or 626.557, subdivision 9d. As provided for under section 245A.08, subdivision 2a, the scope of the contested case hearing must include the maltreatment determination, the disqualification, and the licensing sanction or denial of a license. In such cases, a fair hearing must not be conducted under section 256.045.

Subd. 2. INDIVIDUAL OTHER THAN THE LICENSE HOLDER. If the basis for the commissioner's denial of a license under section 245A.05 or a licensing sanction under section 245A.07 is a maltreatment determination or disqualification that was not set aside or rescinded under section 245C.22, and the disqualified subject is an individual other than the license holder and upon whom a background study must be conducted under section 245C.03, the hearing of all parties may be consolidated into a single contested case hearing upon consent of all parties and the administrative law judge.

Subd. 3. EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC EMPLOYER. (a) If the commissioner does not set aside the disqualification of an individual who is an employee of an employer, as defined in section 179A.03, subdivision 15, the individual may request a contested case hearing under chapter 14.

(b) If the commissioner does not set aside or rescind a disqualification that is based on a maltreatment determination, the scope of the contested case hearing must include the maltreatment determination and the disqualification. In such cases, a fair hearing must not be conducted under section 256.045.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.



(c) Rules adopted under this chapter may not preclude an employee in a contested case hearing for a disqualification from submitting evidence concerning information gathered under this chapter.

Subd. 4. **FINAL AGENCY ORDER.** The commissioner's final order under section 245A.08, subdivision 5, is conclusive on the issue of maltreatment and disqualification, including for purposes of subsequent background studies. The contested case hearing under this section is the only administrative appeal of the final agency determination, specifically, including a challenge to the accuracy and completeness of data under section 13.04.

**Sec. 29. [245C.29] CONCLUSIVE DETERMINATIONS OR DISPOSITIONS.**

**Subdivision 1. CONCLUSIVE MALTREATMENT DETERMINATION OR DISPOSITION.** Unless otherwise specified in statute, a maltreatment determination or disposition under section 626.556 or 626.557 is conclusive, if:

(1) the commissioner has issued a final order in an appeal of that determination or disposition under section 245A.08, subdivision 5, or 256.045;

(2) the individual did not request reconsideration of the maltreatment determination or disposition under section 626.556 or 626.557; or

(3) the individual did not request a hearing of the maltreatment determination or disposition under section 256.045.

**Subd. 2. CONCLUSIVE DISQUALIFICATION DETERMINATION.** Unless otherwise specified in statute, a determination that:

(1) the information the commissioner relied upon to disqualify an individual under section 245C.14 was correct based on serious or recurring maltreatment;

(2) a preponderance of the evidence shows that the individual committed an act or acts that meet the definition of any of the crimes listed in section 245C.15; or

(3) the individual failed to make required reports under section 626.556, subdivision 3, or 626.557, subdivision 3, is conclusive if:

(i) the commissioner has issued a final order in an appeal of that determination under section 245A.08, subdivision 5, or 256.045, or a court has issued a final decision;

(ii) the individual did not request reconsideration of the disqualification under section 245C.21; or

(iii) the individual did not request a hearing on the disqualification under section 256.045.

**Sec. 30. [245C.30] VARIANCE FOR A DISQUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.**

**Subdivision 1. LICENSE HOLDER VARIANCE.** (a) When the commissioner has not set aside a background study subject's disqualification, and there are conditions under which the disqualified individual may provide direct contact services or have

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.

access to people receiving services that minimize the risk of harm to people receiving services, the commissioner may grant a time-limited variance to a license holder.

(b) The variance shall state the reason for the disqualification, the services that may be provided by the disqualified individual, and the conditions with which the license holder or applicant must comply for the variance to remain in effect.

**Subd. 2. DISCLOSURE OF REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) The commissioner may not grant a variance for a disqualified individual unless the applicant or license holder requests the variance and the disqualified individual provides written consent for the commissioner to disclose to the applicant or license holder the reason for the disqualification.

(b) This subdivision does not apply to programs licensed to provide family child care for children, foster care for children in the provider's own home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's own home.

**Subd. 3. CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS OF VARIANCE.** When a license holder permits a disqualified individual to provide any services for which the subject is disqualified without complying with the conditions of the variance, the commissioner may terminate the variance effective immediately and subject the license holder to a licensing action under sections 245A.06 and 245A.07.

**Subd. 4. TERMINATION OF A VARIANCE.** The commissioner may terminate a variance for a disqualified individual at any time for cause.

**Subd. 5. FINAL DECISION.** The commissioner's decision to grant or deny a variance is final and not subject to appeal under the provisions of chapter 14.

**Sec. 31. [245C.31] DISQUALIFICATION OF INDIVIDUAL REGULATED BY A HEALTH-RELATED LICENSING BOARD WHEN DISQUALIFICATION BASED ON SUBSTANTIATED MALTREATMENT.**

**Subdivision 1. BOARD DETERMINES DISCIPLINARY OR CORRECTIVE ACTION.** (a) When the subject of a background study is regulated by a health-related licensing board as defined in chapter 214, and the commissioner determines that the regulated individual is responsible for substantiated maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, instead of the commissioner making a decision regarding disqualification, the board shall make a determination whether to impose disciplinary or corrective action under chapter 214.

(b) This section does not apply to a background study of an individual regulated by a health-related licensing board if the individual's study is related to child foster care, adult foster care, or family child care licensure.

**Subd. 2. COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE TO THE BOARD.** (a) The commissioner shall notify the health-related licensing board:

(1) upon completion of a background study that produces a record showing that the individual was determined to have been responsible for substantiated maltreatment;

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(2) upon the commissioner's completion of an investigation that determined the individual was responsible for substantiated maltreatment; or

(3) upon receipt from another agency of a finding of substantiated maltreatment for which the individual was responsible.

(b) The commissioner's notice to the health-related licensing board shall indicate whether the commissioner would have disqualified the individual for the substantiated maltreatment if the individual were not regulated by the board.

(c) The commissioner shall concurrently send the notice under this subdivision to the individual who is the subject of the background study.

**Subd. 3. COMMISSIONER'S OR LOCAL AGENCY'S REFERRAL TO BOARD.** (a) When the commissioner or a local agency has reason to believe that the direct contact services provided by an individual may fall within the jurisdiction of a health-related licensing board, the commissioner or local agency shall refer the matter to the board as provided in this section.

(b) If, upon review of the information provided by the commissioner, a health-related licensing board informs the commissioner that the board does not have jurisdiction to take disciplinary or corrective action, the commissioner shall make the appropriate disqualification decision regarding the individual as otherwise provided in this chapter.

**Subd. 4. FACILITY MONITORING.** (a) The commissioner has the authority to monitor the facility's compliance with any requirements that the health-related licensing board places on regulated individuals practicing in a facility either during the period pending a final decision on a disciplinary or corrective action or as a result of a disciplinary or corrective action. The commissioner has the authority to order the immediate removal of a regulated individual from direct contact or access when a board issues an order of temporary suspension based on a determination that the regulated individual poses an immediate risk of harm to persons receiving services in a licensed facility.

(b) A facility that allows a regulated individual to provide direct contact services while not complying with the requirements imposed by the health-related licensing board is subject to action by the commissioner as specified under sections 245A.06 and 245A.07.

(c) The commissioner shall notify a health-related licensing board immediately upon receipt of knowledge of a facility's or individual's noncompliance with requirements the board placed on a facility or upon an individual regulated by the board.

### **Sec. 32. [245C.32] SYSTEMS AND RECORDS.**

**Subdivision 1. ESTABLISHMENT.** The commissioner may establish systems and records to fulfill the requirements of this chapter.

**Subd. 2. USE.** (a) The commissioner may also use these systems and records to obtain and provide criminal history data from the bureau of criminal apprehension and

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.**

data about substantiated maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, for other purposes, provided that:

- (1) the background study is specifically authorized in statute; or
- (2) the request is made with the informed consent of the subject of the study as provided in section 13.05, subdivision 4.

(b) An individual making a request under paragraph (a), clause (2), must agree in writing not to disclose the data to any other individual without the consent of the subject of the data.

(c) The commissioner may recover the cost of obtaining and providing background study data by charging the individual requesting the study a fee of no more than \$12 per study. The fees collected under this paragraph are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies.

**Subd. 3. NATIONAL RECORDS SEARCH.** (a) When specifically required by statute, the commissioner shall also obtain criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository.

(b) To obtain criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository, the commissioner shall require classifiable fingerprints of the data subject and must submit these fingerprint requests through the bureau of criminal apprehension.

(c) The commissioner may require the background study subject to submit fingerprint images electronically. The commissioner may not require electronic fingerprint images until the electronic recording and transfer system is available for noncriminal justice purposes and the necessary equipment is in use in the law enforcement agency in the background study subject's local community.

(d) The commissioner may recover the cost of obtaining and providing criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository by charging the individual requesting the study a fee of no more than \$30 per study. The fees collected under this subdivision are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of obtaining criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository.

### **Sec. 33. REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION.**

(a) The revisor of statutes shall correct internal cross-references to sections that are now in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245C, throughout Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules.

(b) If a provision of a section of Minnesota Statutes amended or recodified by this act is amended by the 2003 regular legislative session or 2003 special legislative session, if any, the revisor shall codify the amendment consistent with the recodification of the affected section by this act, notwithstanding any law to the contrary. In sections affected by this instruction, the revisor may make changes necessary to correct the punctuation, grammar, or structure of the remaining text and preserve its meaning.

**New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.**

Sec. 34. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 33 are effective the day following final enactment.

---

**ARTICLE 2**

**CONFORMING AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE.** (a) An individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, other organization or controlling individual that is subject to licensure under section 245A.03 must apply for a license. The application must be made on the forms and in the manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner shall provide the applicant with instruction in completing the application and provide information about the rules and requirements of other state agencies that affect the applicant.

The commissioner shall act on the application within 90 working days after a complete application and any required reports have been received from other state agencies or departments, counties, municipalities, or other political subdivisions. The commissioner shall not consider an application to be complete until the commissioner receives all of the information required under section 245C.05.

(b) An application for licensure must specify one or more controlling individuals as an agent who is responsible for dealing with the commissioner of human services on all matters provided for in this chapter and on whom service of all notices and orders must be made. The agent must be authorized to accept service on behalf of all of the controlling individuals of the program. Service on the agent is service on all of the controlling individuals of the program. It is not a defense to any action arising under this chapter that service was not made on each controlling individual of the program. The designation of one or more controlling individuals as agents under this paragraph does not affect the legal responsibility of any other controlling individual under this chapter.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **BACKGROUND STUDY OF THE APPLICANT; DEFINITIONS.** (a) Individuals and organizations that are required in statute under section 245C.03 to have or initiate background studies under this section shall comply with the following requirements: in chapter 245C.

(1) Applicants for licensure, license holders, and other entities as provided in this section must submit completed background study forms to the commissioner before individuals specified in paragraph (e), clauses (1) to (4), (6), and (7), begin positions

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

allowing direct contact in any licensed program.

(2) Applicants and license holders under the jurisdiction of other state agencies who are required in other statutory sections to initiate background studies under this section must submit completed background study forms to the commissioner prior to the background study subject beginning in a position allowing direct contact in the licensed program, or where applicable, prior to being employed.

(3) Organizations required to initiate background studies under section 256B.0627 for individuals described in paragraph (c), clause (5), must submit a completed background study form to the commissioner before those individuals begin a position allowing direct contact with persons served by the organization. The commissioner shall recover the cost of these background studies through a fee of no more than \$12 per study charged to the organization responsible for submitting the background study form. The fees collected under this paragraph are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies.

Upon receipt of the background study forms from the entities in clauses (1) to (3), the commissioner shall complete the background study as specified under this section and provide notices required in subdivision 3a. Unless otherwise specified, the subject of a background study may have direct contact with persons served by a program after the background study form is mailed or submitted to the commissioner pending notification of the study results under subdivision 3a. A county agency may accept a background study completed by the commissioner under this section in place of the background study required under section 245A.16, subdivision 3, in programs with joint licensure as home and community-based services and adult foster care for people with developmental disabilities when the license holder does not reside in the foster care residence and the subject of the study has been continuously affiliated with the license holder since the date of the commissioner's study.

(b) The definitions in this paragraph apply only to subdivisions 3 to 3e.

(1) "Background study" means the review of records conducted by the commissioner to determine whether a subject is disqualified from direct contact with persons served by a program, and where specifically provided in statutes, whether a subject is disqualified from having access to persons served by a program.

(2) "Continuous, direct supervision" means an individual is within sight or hearing of the supervising person to the extent that supervising person is capable at all times of intervening to protect the health and safety of the persons served by the program.

(3) "Contractor" means any person, regardless of employer, who is providing program services for hire under the control of the provider.

(4) "Direct contact" means providing face-to-face care, training, supervision, counseling, consultation, or medication assistance to persons served by the program.

(5) "Reasonable cause" means information or circumstances exist which provide the commissioner with articulable suspicion that further pertinent information may

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

exist concerning a subject. The commissioner has reasonable cause when, but not limited to, the commissioner has received a report from the subject, the license holder, or a third party indicating that the subject has a history that would disqualify the person or that may pose a risk to the health or safety of persons receiving services.

(6) "Subject of a background study"<sup>22</sup> means an individual on whom a background study is required or completed.

(c) The applicant, license holder, registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, bureau of criminal apprehension, commissioner of health, and county agencies, after written notice to the individual who is the subject of the study, shall help with the study by giving the commissioner criminal conviction data and reports about the maltreatment of adults substantiated under section 626.557 and the maltreatment of minors in licensed programs substantiated under section 626.556. If a background study is initiated by an applicant or license holder and the applicant or license holder receives information about the possible criminal or maltreatment history of an individual who is the subject of the background study, the applicant or license holder must immediately provide the information to the commissioner. The individuals to be studied shall include:

(1) the applicant;

(2) persons age 13 and over living in the household where the licensed program will be provided;

(3) current employees or contractors of the applicant who will have direct contact with persons served by the facility, agency, or program;

(4) volunteers or student volunteers who have direct contact with persons served by the program to provide program services, if the contact is not under the continuous, direct supervision by an individual listed in clause (1) or (3);

(5) any person required under section 256B.0627 to have a background study completed under this section;

(6) persons ages 10 to 12 living in the household where the licensed services will be provided when the commissioner has reasonable cause; and

(7) persons who, without providing direct contact services at a licensed program, may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults receiving services from the program licensed to provide family child care for children, foster care for children in the provider's own home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's own home when the commissioner has reasonable cause.

(d) According to paragraph (c), clauses (2) and (6), the commissioner shall review records from the juvenile courts. For persons under paragraph (c), clauses (1), (3), (4), (5), and (7), who are ages 13 to 17, the commissioner shall review records from the juvenile courts when the commissioner has reasonable cause. The juvenile courts shall help with the study by giving the commissioner existing juvenile court records on individuals described in paragraph (c), clauses (2), (6), and (7), relating to delinquency proceedings held within either the five years immediately preceding the background

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

study or the five years immediately preceding the individual's 18th birthday, whichever time period is longer. The commissioner shall destroy juvenile records obtained pursuant to this subdivision when the subject of the records reaches age 23.

(e) Beginning August 1, 2001, the commissioner shall conduct all background studies required under this chapter and initiated by supplemental nursing services agencies registered under section 144A.71, subdivision 1. Studies for the agencies must be initiated annually by each agency. The commissioner shall conduct the background studies according to this chapter. The commissioner shall recover the cost of the background studies through a fee of no more than \$8 per study, charged to the supplemental nursing services agency. The fees collected under this paragraph are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies.

(f) For purposes of this section, a finding that a delinquency petition is proven in juvenile court shall be considered a conviction in state district court.

(g) A study of an individual in paragraph (c), clauses (1) to (7), shall be conducted at least upon application for initial license for all license types or registration under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, and at reapplication for a license for family child care, child foster care, and adult foster care. The commissioner is not required to conduct a study of an individual at the time of reapplication for a license or if the individual has been continuously affiliated with a foster care provider licensed by the commissioner of human services and registered under chapter 144D, other than a family day care or foster care license, if: (i) a study of the individual was conducted either at the time of initial licensure or when the individual became affiliated with the license holder; (ii) the individual has been continuously affiliated with the license holder since the last study was conducted; and (iii) the procedure described in paragraph (j) has been implemented and was in effect continuously since the last study was conducted. For the purposes of this section, a physician licensed under chapter 147 is considered to be continuously affiliated upon the license holder's receipt from the commissioner of health or human services of the physician's background study results. For individuals who are required to have background studies under paragraph (c) and who have been continuously affiliated with a foster care provider that is licensed in more than one county, criminal conviction data may be shared among those counties in which the foster care programs are licensed. A county agency's receipt of criminal conviction data from another county agency shall meet the criminal data background study requirements of this section.

(h) The commissioner may also conduct studies on individuals specified in paragraph (c), clauses (3) and (4), when the studies are initiated by:

- (i) personnel pool agencies;
- (ii) temporary personnel agencies;
- (iii) educational programs that train persons by providing direct contact services in licensed programs; and
- (iv) professional services agencies that are not licensed and which contract with licensed programs to provide direct contact services or individuals who provide direct contact services.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.



(i) Studies on individuals in paragraph (h), items (i) to (iv), must be initiated annually by these agencies, programs, and individuals. Except as provided in paragraph (a), clause (3), no applicant, license holder, or individual who is the subject of the study shall pay any fees required to conduct the study.

(1) At the option of the licensed facility, rather than initiating another background study on an individual required to be studied who has indicated to the licensed facility that a background study by the commissioner was previously completed, the facility may make a request to the commissioner for documentation of the individual's background study status, provided that:

(i) the facility makes this request using a form provided by the commissioner;

(ii) in making the request the facility informs the commissioner that either:

(A) the individual has been continuously affiliated with a licensed facility since the individual's previous background study was completed, or since October 1, 1995, whichever is shorter; or

(B) the individual is affiliated only with a personnel pool agency, a temporary personnel agency, an educational program that trains persons by providing direct contact services in licensed programs, or a professional services agency that is not licensed and which contracts with licensed programs to provide direct contact services or individuals who provide direct contact services; and

(iii) the facility provides notices to the individual as required in paragraphs (a) to (j), and that the facility is requesting written notification of the individual's background study status from the commissioner.

(2) The commissioner shall respond to each request under paragraph (1) with a written or electronic notice to the facility and the study subject. If the commissioner determines that a background study is necessary, the study shall be completed without further request from a licensed agency or notifications to the study subject.

(3) When a background study is being initiated by a licensed facility or a foster care provider that is also registered under chapter 144D, a study subject affiliated with multiple licensed facilities may attach to the background study form a cover letter indicating the additional facilities' names, addresses, and background study identification numbers. When the commissioner receives such notices, each facility identified by the background study subject shall be notified of the study results. The background study notice sent to the subsequent agencies shall satisfy those facilities' responsibilities for initiating a background study on that individual.

(j) If an individual who is affiliated with a program or facility regulated by the department of human services or department of health or who is affiliated with any type of home care agency or provider of personal care assistance services, is convicted of a crime constituting a disqualification under subdivision 3d, the probation officer or corrections agent shall notify the commissioner of the conviction. For the purpose of this paragraph, "conviction" has the meaning given it in section 609.02, subdivision 5. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of corrections, shall develop

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

forms and information necessary to implement this paragraph and shall provide the forms and information to the commissioner of corrections for distribution to local probation officers and corrections agents. The commissioner shall inform individuals subject to a background study that criminal convictions for disqualifying crimes will be reported to the commissioner by the corrections system. A probation officer, corrections agent, or corrections agency is not civilly or criminally liable for disclosing or failing to disclose the information required by this paragraph. Upon receipt of disqualifying information, the commissioner shall provide the notifications required in subdivision 3a, as appropriate to agencies on record as having initiated a background study or making a request for documentation of the background study status of the individual. This paragraph does not apply to family day care and child foster care programs.

(k) The individual who is the subject of the study must provide the applicant or license holder with sufficient information to ensure an accurate study including the individual's first, middle, and last name and all other names by which the individual has been known; home address, city, county, and state of residence for the past five years; zip code; sex; date of birth; and driver's license number or state identification number. The applicant or license holder shall provide this information about an individual in paragraph (e), clauses (1) to (7), on forms prescribed by the commissioner. By January 1, 2000, for background studies conducted by the department of human services, the commissioner shall implement a system for the electronic transmission of: (1) background study information to the commissioner; and (2) background study results to the license holder. The commissioner may request additional information of the individual, which shall be optional for the individual to provide, such as the individual's social security number or race.

(l) For programs directly licensed by the commissioner, a study must include information related to names of substantiated perpetrators of maltreatment of vulnerable adults that has been received by the commissioner as required under section 626.557, subdivision 9c, paragraph (i), and the commissioner's records relating to the maltreatment of minors in licensed programs, information from juvenile courts as required in paragraph (e) for persons listed in paragraph (e), clauses (2), (6), and (7), and information from the bureau of criminal apprehension. For child foster care, adult foster care, and family day care homes, the study must include information from the county agency's record of substantiated maltreatment of adults, and the maltreatment of minors, information from juvenile courts as required in paragraph (e) for persons listed in paragraph (e), clauses (2), (6), and (7), and information from the bureau of criminal apprehension. The commissioner may also review arrest and investigative information from the bureau of criminal apprehension, the commissioner of health, a county attorney, county sheriff, county agency, local chief of police, other states, the courts, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation if the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe the information is pertinent to the disqualification of an individual listed in paragraph (e), clauses (1) to (7). The commissioner is not required to conduct more than one review of a subject's records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation if a review of the subject's criminal history with the Federal Bureau of Investigation has already been completed by the commissioner and there has been no break in the

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

subject's affiliation with the license holder who initiated the background study.

(m) When the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe that further pertinent information may exist on the subject, the subject shall provide a set of classifiable fingerprints obtained from an authorized law enforcement agency. For purposes of requiring fingerprints, the commissioner shall be considered to have reasonable cause under, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

(1) information from the bureau of criminal apprehension indicates that the subject is a multistate offender;

(2) information from the bureau of criminal apprehension indicates that multistate offender status is undetermined; or

(3) the commissioner has received a report from the subject or a third party indicating that the subject has a criminal history in a jurisdiction other than Minnesota.

(n) The failure or refusal of an applicant, license holder, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, to cooperate with the commissioner is reasonable cause to disqualify a subject, deny a license application or immediately suspend, suspend, or revoke a license or registration. Failure or refusal of an individual to cooperate with the study is just cause for denying or terminating employment of the individual if the individual's failure or refusal to cooperate could cause the applicant's application to be denied or the license holder's license to be immediately suspended, suspended, or revoked.

(o) The commissioner shall not consider an application to be complete until all of the information required to be provided under this subdivision has been received.

(p) No person in paragraph (c), clauses (1) to (7), who is disqualified as a result of this section may be retained by the agency in a position involving direct contact with persons served by the program and no person in paragraph (c), clauses (2), (6), and (7), or as provided elsewhere in statute who is disqualified as a result of this section may be allowed access to persons served by the program, unless the commissioner has provided written notice to the agency stating that:

(1) the individual may remain in direct contact during the period in which the individual may request reconsideration as provided in subdivision 3a, paragraph (b), clause (2) or (3);

(2) the individual's disqualification has been set aside for that agency as provided in subdivision 3b, paragraph (b); or

(3) the license holder has been granted a variance for the disqualified individual under subdivision 3e.

(q) Termination of affiliation with persons in paragraph (c), clauses (1) to (7), made in good faith reliance on a notice of disqualification provided by the commissioner shall not subject the applicant or license holder to civil liability.

(r) The commissioner may establish records to fulfill the requirements of this section.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(s) The commissioner may not disqualify an individual subject to a study under this section because that person has, or has had, a mental illness as defined in section 245.462, subdivision 20.

(t) An individual subject to disqualification under this subdivision has the applicable rights in subdivision 3a, 3b, or 3c.

(u) For the purposes of background studies completed by tribal organizations performing licensing activities otherwise required of the commissioner under this chapter, after obtaining consent from the background study subject, tribal licensing agencies shall have access to criminal history data in the same manner as county licensing agencies and private licensing agencies under this chapter.

(v) County agencies shall have access to the criminal history data in the same manner as county licensing agencies under this chapter for purposes of background studies completed by county agencies on legal nonlicensed child care providers to determine eligibility for child care funds under chapter 119B.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

Subd. 3a. **NOTIFICATION TO SUBJECT AND LICENSE HOLDER OF NOTICE OF BACKGROUND STUDY RESULTS; COMMISSIONER'S TERMINATION OF RISK OF HARM.** (a) ~~Within 15 working days, the commissioner shall notify the applicant, license holder, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, and the individual who is the subject of the study, in writing or by electronic transmission, of the results of the study or that more time is needed to complete the study. When the study is completed, a notice that the study was undertaken and completed shall be maintained in the personnel files of the program. For studies on individuals pertaining to a license to provide family day care or group family day care, foster care for children in the provider's own home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's own home, the commissioner is not required to provide a separate notice of the background study results to the individual who is the subject of the study unless the study results in a disqualification of the individual.~~

The commissioner shall notify the individual studied if the information in the study indicates the individual is disqualified from direct contact with persons served by the program. The commissioner shall disclose the information causing disqualification and instructions on how to request a reconsideration of the disqualification to the individual studied. An applicant or license holder who is not the subject of the study shall be informed that the commissioner has found information that disqualifies the subject from direct contact with persons served by the program. However, only the individual studied must be informed of the information contained in the subject's background study unless the basis for the disqualification is failure to cooperate, substantiated maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, the Data Practices Act provides for release of the information, or the individual studied authorizes the release of the information. When a disqualification is based on the subject's failure to cooperate with the background study or substantiated maltreatment under section

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

626.556 or 626.557, the agency that initiated the study shall be informed by the commissioner of the reason for the disqualification.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision 3d, paragraph (b), if the commissioner determines that the individual studied has a disqualifying characteristic, the commissioner shall review the information immediately available and make a determination as to the subject's immediate risk of harm to persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact. The commissioner shall consider all relevant information available, including the following factors in determining the immediate risk of harm: the recency of the disqualifying characteristic; the recency of discharge from probation for the crimes; the number of disqualifying characteristics; the intrusiveness or violence of the disqualifying characteristic; the vulnerability of the victim involved in the disqualifying characteristic; and the similarity of the victim to the persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact. The commissioner may determine that the evaluation of the information immediately available gives the commissioner reason to believe one of the following:

(1) The individual poses an imminent risk of harm to persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact. If the commissioner determines that an individual studied poses an imminent risk of harm to persons served by the program where the individual studied will have direct contact, the individual and the license holder must be sent a notice of disqualification. The commissioner shall order the license holder to immediately remove the individual studied from direct contact. The notice to the individual studied must include an explanation of the basis of this determination.

(2) The individual poses a risk of harm requiring continuous, direct supervision while providing direct contact services during the period in which the subject may request a reconsideration. If the commissioner determines that an individual studied poses a risk of harm that requires continuous, direct supervision, the individual and the license holder must be sent a notice of disqualification. The commissioner shall order the license holder to immediately remove the individual studied from direct contact services or assure that the individual studied is under the continuous, direct supervision of another staff person when providing direct contact services during the period in which the individual may request a reconsideration of the disqualification. If the individual studied does not submit a timely request for reconsideration, or the individual submits a timely request for reconsideration, but the disqualification is not set aside for that license holder, the license holder will be notified of the disqualification and ordered to immediately remove the individual from any position allowing direct contact with persons receiving services from the license holder.

(3) The individual does not pose an imminent risk of harm or a risk of harm requiring continuous, direct supervision while providing direct contact services during the period in which the subject may request a reconsideration. If the commissioner determines that an individual studied does not pose a risk of harm that requires continuous, direct supervision, only the individual must be sent a notice of disqualification. The license holder must be sent a notice that more time is needed to complete the individual's background study. If the individual studied submits a timely request for

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

reconsideration, and if the disqualification is set aside for that license holder, the license holder will receive the same notification received by license holders in cases where the individual studied has no disqualifying characteristic. If the individual studied does not submit a timely request for reconsideration, or the individual submits a timely request for reconsideration, but the disqualification is not set aside for that license holder, the license holder will be notified of the disqualification and ordered to immediately remove the individual from any position allowing direct contact with persons receiving services from the license holder.

(c) County licensing agencies performing duties under this subdivision may develop an alternative system for determining the subject's immediate risk of harm to persons served by the program, providing the notices under paragraph (b), and documenting the action taken by the county licensing agency. Each county licensing agency's implementation of the alternative system is subject to approval by the commissioner. Notwithstanding this alternative system, county licensing agencies shall complete the requirements of paragraph (a) The notice of background study results and the commissioner's determination of the background subject's risk of harm shall be governed according to sections 245C.16 and 245C.17.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 3b, is amended to read:

Subd. 3b. **RECONSIDERATION OF DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) The individual who is the subject of the disqualification may request a reconsideration of the disqualification.

The individual must submit the request for reconsideration to the commissioner in writing. A request for reconsideration for an individual who has been sent a notice of disqualification under subdivision 3a, paragraph (b), clause (1) or (2), must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the disqualified individual's receipt of the notice of disqualification. Upon showing that the information in clause (1) or (2) cannot be obtained within 30 days, the disqualified individual may request additional time, not to exceed 30 days, to obtain that information. A request for reconsideration for an individual who has been sent a notice of disqualification under subdivision 3a, paragraph (b), clause (3), must be submitted within 15 calendar days of the disqualified individual's receipt of the notice of disqualification. An individual who was determined to have maltreated a child under section 626.556 or a vulnerable adult under section 626.557, and who was disqualified under this section on the basis of serious or recurring maltreatment, may request reconsideration of both the maltreatment and the disqualification determinations. The request for reconsideration of the maltreatment determination and the disqualification must be submitted within 30 calendar days of the individual's receipt of the notice of disqualification. Removal of a disqualified individual from direct contact shall be ordered if the individual does not request reconsideration within the prescribed time, and for an individual who submits a timely request for reconsideration, if the disqualification is not set aside. The individual must present information showing that:

(1) the information the commissioner relied upon in determining that the underlying conduct giving rise to the disqualification occurred, and for maltreatment,

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

that the maltreatment was serious or recurring, is incorrect; or

(2) the subject of the study does not pose a risk of harm to any person served by the applicant, license holder, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1.

(b) The commissioner shall rescind the disqualification if the commissioner finds that the information relied on to disqualify the subject is incorrect. The commissioner may set aside the disqualification under this section if the commissioner finds that the individual does not pose a risk of harm to any person served by the applicant, license holder, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1. In determining that an individual does not pose a risk of harm, the commissioner shall consider the nature, severity, and consequences of the event or events that lead to disqualification, whether there is more than one disqualifying event, the age and vulnerability of the victim at the time of the event, the harm suffered by the victim, the similarity between the victim and persons served by the program, the time elapsed without a repeat of the same or similar event, documentation of successful completion by the individual studied of training or rehabilitation pertinent to the event, and any other information relevant to reconsideration. In reviewing a disqualification under this section, the commissioner shall give preeminent weight to the safety of each person to be served by the license holder, applicant, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, over the interests of the license holder, applicant, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1.

(c) Unless the information the commissioner relied on in disqualifying an individual is incorrect, the commissioner may not set aside the disqualification of an individual in connection with a license to provide family day care for children, foster care for children in the provider's own home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's own home if:

(1) less than ten years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and the individual has been convicted of a violation of any offense listed in sections 609.165 (felon ineligible to possess firearm), criminal vehicular homicide under 609.21 (criminal vehicular homicide and injury), 609.215 (aiding suicide or aiding attempted suicide), felony violations under 609.223 or 609.2231 (assault in the third or fourth degree), 609.713 (terroristic threats), 609.235 (use of drugs to injure or to facilitate crime), 609.24 (simple robbery), 609.255 (false imprisonment), 609.562 (arson in the second degree), 609.71 (riot), 609.498, subdivision 1 or 1a (aggravated first degree or first degree tampering with a witness), burglary in the first or second degree under 609.582 (burglary), 609.66 (dangerous weapon), 609.665 (spring guns), 609.67 (machine guns and short-barreled shotguns), 609.749, subdivision 2 (gross misdemeanor harassment; stalking), 152.021 or 152.022 (controlled substance crime in the first or second degree), 152.023, subdivision 1, clause (3) or (4), or subdivision 2, clause (4) (controlled substance crime in the third degree), 152.024, subdivision 1, clause (2), (3), or (4) (controlled substance crime in the fourth degree), 609.224, subdivision 2, paragraph (c) (fifth-degree assault by a caregiver against a vulnerable adult), 609.23 (mistreatment of persons confined), 609.231 (mistreatment of residents or patients), 609.2325 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult), 609.233 (criminal neglect of a vulnerable adult), 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult), 609.234 (failure to report), 609.265 (abduction), 609.2664 to 609.2665 (manslaughter of an

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

unborn child in the first or second degree), 609.267 to 609.2672 (assault of an unborn child in the first, second, or third degree); 609.268 (injury or death of an unborn child in the commission of a crime), 617.293 (disseminating or displaying harmful material to minors); a felony level conviction involving alcohol or drug use; a gross misdemeanor offense under 609.324, subdivision 1 (other prohibited acts); a gross misdemeanor offense under 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child); a gross misdemeanor offense under 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child), 609.72, subdivision 3 (disorderly conduct against a vulnerable adult); or an attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses; as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes; or an offense in any other state, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any of the foregoing offenses;

(2) regardless of how much time has passed since the involuntary termination of parental rights under section 260C.301 or the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense, the individual was convicted of a violation of any offense listed in sections 609.185 to 609.195 (murder in the first, second, or third degree), 609.20 (manslaughter in the first degree), 609.205 (manslaughter in the second degree), 609.245 (aggravated robbery); 609.25 (kidnapping); 609.561 (arson in the first degree), 609.749, subdivision 3, 4, or 5 (felony-level harassment; stalking), 609.228 (great bodily harm caused by distribution of drugs); 609.221 or 609.222 (assault in the first or second degree), 609.66, subdivision 1e (drive-by shooting); 609.855, subdivision 5 (shooting in or at a public transit vehicle or facility); 609.2661 to 609.2663 (murder of an unborn child in the first, second, or third degree); a felony offense under 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); a felony offense under 609.324, subdivision 1 (other prohibited acts); a felony offense under 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child), 609.322 (solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution), 609.342 to 609.345 (criminal sexual conduct in the first, second, third, or fourth degree); 609.352 (solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct); 617.246 (use of minors in a sexual performance); 617.247 (possession of pictorial representations of a minor); 609.365 (incest); a felony offense under sections 609.2242 and 609.2243 (domestic assault); a felony offense of spousal abuse; a felony offense of child abuse or neglect; a felony offense of a crime against children; or an attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses as defined in Minnesota Statutes; or an offense in any other state, the elements of which are substantially similar to any of the foregoing offenses;

(3) within the seven years preceding the study, the individual committed an act that constitutes maltreatment of a child under section 626.556, subdivision 10e, and that resulted in substantial bodily harm as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 7a, or substantial mental or emotional harm as supported by competent psychological or psychiatric evidence; or

(4) within the seven years preceding the study, the individual was determined under section 626.557 to be the perpetrator of a substantiated incident of maltreatment of a vulnerable adult that resulted in substantial bodily harm as defined in section 609.02, subdivision 7a, or substantial mental or emotional harm as supported by competent psychological or psychiatric evidence.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.



In the case of any ground for disqualification under clauses (1) to (4), if the act was committed by an individual other than the applicant, license holder, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, residing in the applicant's or license holder's home, or the home of a registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, the applicant, license holder, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, may seek reconsideration when the individual who committed the act no longer resides in the home.

The disqualification periods provided under clauses (1), (3), and (4) are the minimum applicable disqualification periods. The commissioner may determine that an individual should continue to be disqualified from licensure or registration under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, because the license holder, applicant, or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, poses a risk of harm to a person served by that individual after the minimum disqualification period has passed.

(d) The commissioner shall respond in writing or by electronic transmission to all reconsideration requests for which the basis for the request is that the information relied upon by the commissioner to disqualify is incorrect or inaccurate within 30 working days of receipt of a request and all relevant information. If the basis for the request is that the individual does not pose a risk of harm, the commissioner shall respond to the request within 15 working days after receiving the request for reconsideration and all relevant information. If the request is based on both the correctness or accuracy of the information relied on to disqualify the individual and the risk of harm, the commissioner shall respond to the request within 45 working days after receiving the request for reconsideration and all relevant information. If the disqualification is set aside, the commissioner shall notify the applicant or license holder in writing or by electronic transmission of the decision.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision 3e, if a disqualification for which reconsideration was requested is not set aside or is not rescinded, an individual who was disqualified on the basis of a preponderance of evidence that the individual committed an act or acts that meet the definition of any of the crimes listed in subdivision 3d, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (4); or for failure to make required reports under section 626.556, subdivision 3, or 626.557, subdivision 3, pursuant to subdivision 3d, paragraph (a), clause (4), may request a fair hearing under section 256.045. Except as provided under subdivision 3e, the fair hearing is the only administrative appeal of the final agency determination, specifically, including a challenge to the accuracy and completeness of data under section 13.04.

(f) Except as provided under subdivision 3e, if an individual was disqualified on the basis of a determination of maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, which was serious or recurring, and the individual has requested reconsideration of the maltreatment determination under section 626.556, subdivision 10i, or 626.557, subdivision 9d, and also requested reconsideration of the disqualification under this subdivision, reconsideration of the maltreatment determination and reconsideration of the disqualification shall be consolidated into a single reconsideration. For maltreatment and disqualification determinations made by county agencies, the consolidated reconsideration shall be conducted by the county agency. If the county agency has disqualified an individual on multiple bases, one of which is a county maltreatment

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

determination for which the individual has a right to request reconsideration, the county shall conduct the reconsideration of all disqualifications. Except as provided under subdivision 3c, if an individual who was disqualified on the basis of serious or recurring maltreatment requests a fair hearing on the maltreatment determination under section 626.556, subdivision 10i, or 626.557, subdivision 9d, and requests a fair hearing on the disqualification, which has not been set aside or rescinded under this subdivision, the scope of the fair hearing under section 256.045 shall include the maltreatment determination and the disqualification. Except as provided under subdivision 3c, a fair hearing is the only administrative appeal of the final agency determination, specifically, including a challenge to the accuracy and completeness of data under section 13.04.

(g) In the notice from the commissioner that a disqualification has been set aside, the license holder must be informed that information about the nature of the disqualification and which factors under paragraph (b) were the bases of the decision to set aside the disqualification is available to the license holder upon request without consent of the background study subject. With the written consent of a background study subject, the commissioner may release to the license holder copies of all information related to the background study subject's disqualification and the commissioner's decision to set aside the disqualification as specified in the written consent Reconsideration of a disqualification shall be governed according to sections 245C.21 to 245C.27.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 3c, is amended to read:

Subd. 3c. **CONTESTED CASE.** (a) Notwithstanding subdivision 3b, paragraphs (e) and (f), if a disqualification is not set aside, a person who is an employee of an employer, as defined in section 179A.03, subdivision 15, may request a contested case hearing under chapter 14. If the disqualification which was not set aside or was not rescinded was based on a maltreatment determination, the scope of the contested case hearing shall include the maltreatment determination and the disqualification. In such cases, a fair hearing shall not be conducted under section 256.045. Rules adopted under this chapter may not preclude an employee in a contested case hearing for disqualification from submitting evidence concerning information gathered under subdivision 3, paragraph (e).

(b) If a disqualification for which reconsideration was requested and which was not set aside or was not rescinded under subdivision 3b is the basis for a denial of a license under section 245A.05 or a licensing sanction under section 245A.07, the license holder has the right to a contested case hearing under chapter 14 and Minnesota Rules, parts 1400.8510 to 1400.8612 and successor rules. The appeal must be submitted in accordance with section 245A.05 or 245A.07, subdivision 3. As provided for under section 245A.08, subdivision 2a, the scope of the consolidated contested case hearing shall include the disqualification and the licensing sanction or denial of a license. If the disqualification was based on a determination of substantiated serious or recurring maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, the appeal must be submitted in accordance with sections 245A.07, subdivision 3, and 626.556, subdivi-

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

sion 10i, or 626.557, subdivision 9d. As provided for under section 245A.08, subdivision 2a, the scope of the contested case hearing shall include the maltreatment determination, the disqualification, and the licensing sanction or denial of a license. In such cases, a fair hearing shall not be conducted under section 256.045.

(e) If a maltreatment determination or disqualification, which was not set aside or was not rescinded under subdivision 3b, is the basis for a denial of a license under section 245A.05 or a licensing sanction under section 245A.07, and the disqualified subject is an individual other than the license holder and upon whom a background study must be conducted under subdivision 3, the hearing of all parties may be consolidated into a single contested case hearing upon consent of all parties and the administrative law judge.

(d) The commissioner's final order under section 245A.08, subdivision 5, is conclusive on the issue of maltreatment and disqualification, including for purposes of subsequent background studies. The contested case hearing under this subdivision is the only administrative appeal of the final agency determination, specifically, including a challenge to the accuracy and completeness of data under section 13.04 Contested case hearing rights related to a disqualification shall be governed according to section 245C.28.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 3d, is amended to read:

Subd. 3d. **DISQUALIFICATION.** (a) Upon receipt of information showing, or when a background study completed under subdivision 3 shows any of the following: a conviction of one or more crimes listed in clauses (1) to (4); the individual has admitted to or a preponderance of the evidence indicates the individual has committed an act or acts that meet the definition of any of the crimes listed in clauses (1) to (4); or an investigation results in an administrative determination listed under clause (4), the individual shall be disqualified from any position allowing direct contact with persons receiving services from the license holder, entity identified in subdivision 3, paragraph (a), or registrant under section 144A.71, subdivision 1, and for individuals studied under section 245A.04, subdivision 3, paragraph (e), clauses (2), (6), and (7), the individual shall also be disqualified from access to a person receiving services from the license holder:

(1) regardless of how much time has passed since the involuntary termination of parental rights under section 260C.301 or the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense, and unless otherwise specified, regardless of the level of the conviction, the individual was convicted of any of the following offenses: sections 609.185 (murder in the first degree); 609.19 (murder in the second degree); 609.195 (murder in the third degree); 609.2661 (murder of an unborn child in the first degree); 609.2662 (murder of an unborn child in the second degree); 609.2663 (murder of an unborn child in the third degree); 609.20 (manslaughter in the first degree); 609.205 (manslaughter in the second degree); 609.221 or 609.222 (assault in the first or second degree); 609.228 (great bodily harm caused by distribution of drugs); 609.245 (aggravated robbery); 609.25 (kidnapping); 609.561 (arson in the first degree); 609.749, subdivision 3, 4, or

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

5 (felony-level harassment; stalking); 609.66, subdivision 1e (drive-by shooting); 609.855, subdivision 5 (shooting at or in a public transit vehicle or facility); 609.322 (solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution); 609.342 (criminal sexual conduct in the first degree); 609.343 (criminal sexual conduct in the second degree); 609.344 (criminal sexual conduct in the third degree); 609.345 (criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree); 609.352 (solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct); 609.365 (incest); felony offense under 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); a felony offense under 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child); a felony offense under 609.324, subdivision 1 (other prohibited acts); 617.246 (use of minors in sexual performance prohibited); 617.247 (possession of pictorial representations of minors); a felony offense under sections 609.2242 and 609.2243 (domestic assault), a felony offense of spousal abuse, a felony offense of child abuse or neglect, a felony offense of a crime against children; or attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses as defined in Minnesota Statutes, or an offense in any other state or country, where the elements are substantially similar to any of the offenses listed in this clause;

(2) if less than 15 years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and the individual has received a felony conviction for a violation of any of these offenses: sections 609.21 (criminal vehicular homicide and injury); 609.165 (felon ineligible to possess firearm); 609.215 (suicide); 609.223 or 609.2231 (assault in the third or fourth degree); repeat offenses under 609.224 (assault in the fifth degree); repeat offenses under 609.3451 (criminal sexual conduct in the fifth degree); 609.498, subdivision 1 or 1a (aggravated first degree or first degree tampering with a witness); 609.713 (terroristic threats); 609.235 (use of drugs to injure or facilitate crime); 609.24 (simple robbery); 609.255 (false imprisonment); 609.562 (arson in the second degree); 609.563 (arson in the third degree); repeat offenses under 617.23 (indecent exposure; penalties); repeat offenses under 617.241 (obscene materials and performances; distribution and exhibition prohibited; penalty); 609.71 (riot); 609.66 (dangerous weapons); 609.67 (machine guns and short-barreled shotguns); 609.2325 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult); 609.2664 (manslaughter of an unborn child in the first degree); 609.2665 (manslaughter of an unborn child in the second degree); 609.267 (assault of an unborn child in the first degree); 609.2671 (assault of an unborn child in the second degree); 609.268 (injury or death of an unborn child in the commission of a crime); 609.52 (theft); 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult); 609.521 (possession of shoplifting gear); 609.582 (burglary); 609.625 (aggravated forgery); 609.63 (forgery); 609.631 (check forgery; offering a forged check); 609.635 (obtaining signature by false pretense); 609.27 (coercion); 609.275 (attempt to coerce); 609.687 (adulteration); 260C.301 (grounds for termination of parental rights); chapter 152 (drugs; controlled substance); and a felony level conviction involving alcohol or drug use. An attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses, as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes; or an offense in any other state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of the offenses in this clause. If the individual studied is convicted of one of the felonies listed in this clause, but the sentence is a gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor disposition, the lookback period for the conviction is the period

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

applicable to the disposition; that is the period for gross misdemeanors or misdemeanors;

(3) if less than ten years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and the individual has received a gross misdemeanor conviction for a violation of any of the following offenses: sections 609.224 (assault in the fifth degree); 609.2242 and 609.2243 (domestic assault); violation of an order for protection under 518B.01, subdivision 14; 609.3451 (criminal sexual conduct in the fifth degree); repeat offenses under 609.746 (interference with privacy); repeat offenses under 617.23 (indecent exposure); 617.241 (obscene materials and performances); 617.243 (indecent literature, distribution); 617.293 (harmful materials; dissemination and display to minors prohibited); 609.71 (riot); 609.66 (dangerous weapons); 609.749, subdivision 2 (harassment; stalking); 609.224, subdivision 2, paragraph (e) (assault in the fifth degree by a caregiver against a vulnerable adult); 609.23 (mistreatment of persons confined); 609.231 (mistreatment of residents or patients); 609.2325 (criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult); 609.233 (criminal neglect of a vulnerable adult); 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult); 609.234 (failure to report maltreatment of a vulnerable adult); 609.72, subdivision 3 (disorderly conduct against a vulnerable adult); 609.265 (abduction); 609.378 (neglect or endangerment of a child); 609.377 (malicious punishment of a child); 609.324, subdivision 1a (other prohibited acts; minor engaged in prostitution); 609.33 (disorderly house); 609.52 (theft); 609.582 (burglary); 609.631 (check forgery; offering a forged check); 609.275 (attempt to coerce); or an attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses, as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes; or an offense in any other state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any of the offenses listed in this clause. If the defendant is convicted of one of the gross misdemeanors listed in this clause, but the sentence is a misdemeanor disposition, the lookback period for the conviction is the period applicable to misdemeanors; or

(4) if less than seven years have passed since the discharge of the sentence imposed for the offense; and the individual has received a misdemeanor conviction for a violation of any of the following offenses: sections 609.224 (assault in the fifth degree); 609.2242 (domestic assault); violation of an order for protection under 518B.01 (Domestic Abuse Act); violation of an order for protection under 609.3232 (protective order authorized; procedures; penalties); 609.746 (interference with privacy); 609.79 (obscene or harassing phone calls); 609.795 (letter, telegram, or package; opening; harassment); 617.23 (indecent exposure; penalties); 609.2672 (assault of an unborn child in the third degree); 617.293 (harmful materials; dissemination and display to minors prohibited); 609.66 (dangerous weapons); 609.665 (spring guns); 609.2335 (financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult); 609.234 (failure to report maltreatment of a vulnerable adult); 609.52 (theft); 609.27 (coercion); or an attempt or conspiracy to commit any of these offenses, as each of these offenses is defined in Minnesota Statutes; or an offense in any other state or country, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any of the offenses listed in this clause; a determination or disposition of failure to make required reports under section 626.556, subdivision 3, or 626.557, subdivision 3, for incidents in which: (i) the final disposition under section 626.556 or 626.557 was substantiated maltreatment,

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

and (ii) the maltreatment was recurring or serious; or a determination or disposition of substantiated serious or recurring maltreatment of a minor under section 626.556 or of a vulnerable adult under section 626.557 for which there is a preponderance of evidence that the maltreatment occurred, and that the subject was responsible for the maltreatment.

For the purposes of this section, "serious maltreatment" means sexual abuse; maltreatment resulting in death; or maltreatment resulting in serious injury which reasonably requires the care of a physician whether or not the care of a physician was sought; or abuse resulting in serious injury. For purposes of this section, "abuse resulting in serious injury" means: bruises, bites, skin laceration or tissue damage; fractures; dislocations; evidence of internal injuries; head injuries with loss of consciousness; extensive second-degree or third-degree burns and other burns for which complications are present; extensive second-degree or third-degree frostbite, and others for which complications are present; irreversible mobility or avulsion of teeth; injuries to the eyeball; ingestion of foreign substances and objects that are harmful; near drowning; and heat exhaustion or sunstroke. For purposes of this section, "care of a physician" is treatment received or ordered by a physician, but does not include diagnostic testing, assessment, or observation. For the purposes of this section, "recurring maltreatment" means more than one incident of maltreatment for which there is a preponderance of evidence that the maltreatment occurred, and that the subject was responsible for the maltreatment. For purposes of this section, "access" means physical access to an individual receiving services or the individual's personal property without continuous, direct supervision as defined in section 245A.04, subdivision 3.

(b) Except for background studies related to child foster care, adult foster care, or family child care licensure, when the subject of a background study is regulated by a health-related licensing board as defined in chapter 214, and the regulated person has been determined to have been responsible for substantiated maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, instead of the commissioner making a decision regarding disqualification, the board shall make a determination whether to impose disciplinary or corrective action under chapter 214.

(1) The commissioner shall notify the health-related licensing board:

(i) upon completion of a background study that produces a record showing that the individual was determined to have been responsible for substantiated maltreatment;

(ii) upon the commissioner's completion of an investigation that determined the individual was responsible for substantiated maltreatment; or

(iii) upon receipt from another agency of a finding of substantiated maltreatment for which the individual was responsible.

(2) The commissioner's notice shall indicate whether the individual would have been disqualified by the commissioner for the substantiated maltreatment if the individual were not regulated by the board. The commissioner shall concurrently send this notice to the individual.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(3) Notwithstanding the exclusion from this subdivision for individuals who provide child foster care, adult foster care, or family child care, when the commissioner or a local agency has reason to believe that the direct contact services provided by the individual may fall within the jurisdiction of a health-related licensing board, a referral shall be made to the board as provided in this section.

(4) If, upon review of the information provided by the commissioner, a health-related licensing board informs the commissioner that the board does not have jurisdiction to take disciplinary or corrective action, the commissioner shall make the appropriate disqualification decision regarding the individual as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(5) The commissioner has the authority to monitor the facility's compliance with any requirements that the health-related licensing board places on regulated persons practicing in a facility either during the period pending a final decision on a disciplinary or corrective action or as a result of a disciplinary or corrective action. The commissioner has the authority to order the immediate removal of a regulated person from direct contact or access when a board issues an order of temporary suspension based on a determination that the regulated person poses an immediate risk of harm to persons receiving services in a licensed facility.

(6) A facility that allows a regulated person to provide direct contact services while not complying with the requirements imposed by the health-related licensing board is subject to action by the commissioner as specified under sections 245A.06 and 245A.07.

(7) The commissioner shall notify a health-related licensing board immediately upon receipt of knowledge of noncompliance with requirements placed on a facility or upon a person regulated by the board Disqualification shall be governed according to sections 245C.14 and 245C.15.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 3e, is amended to read:

Subd. 3e. **VARIANCE FOR A DISQUALIFIED PERSON INDIVIDUAL.** (a) When a background study subject's disqualification has not been set aside by the commissioner, and there are conditions under which the disqualified individual may provide direct contact services or have access to people receiving services that minimize the risk of harm to people receiving services, the commissioner may grant a time-limited variance to a license holder that states the reason for the disqualification, the services that may be provided by the disqualified individual, and the conditions with which the license holder or applicant must comply for the variance to be effective.

(b) Except for programs licensed to provide family day care for children, foster care for children in the provider's own home, or foster care or day care services for adults in the provider's own home, the commissioner may not grant a variance for a disqualified person unless the applicant or license holder has requested the variance and the disqualified individual has provided written consent for the commissioner to disclose to the applicant or license holder the reason for the disqualification.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(c) ~~When a license holder permits a disqualified individual to provide any services for which the subject is disqualified without complying with the conditions of the variance, termination of the variance is immediate and the license holder may be subject to fines or sanctions under sections 245A.06 and 245A.07.~~

(d) ~~The commissioner may terminate a variance for a disqualified person at any time for cause.~~

(e) ~~The commissioner's decision to grant or deny a variance request is final and not subject to appeal under the provisions of chapter 14 A variance for a disqualified individual shall be governed according to section 245C.30.~~

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.04, subdivision 3f, is amended to read:

Subd. 3f. **CONCLUSIVE DETERMINATIONS OR DISPOSITIONS.** Unless otherwise specified in statute, the following determinations or dispositions are deemed conclusive:

(1) ~~a maltreatment determination or disposition under section 626.556 or 626.557, if:~~

(i) ~~the commissioner has issued a final order in an appeal of that determination or disposition under section 245A.08, subdivision 5, or 256.045;~~

(ii) ~~the individual did not request reconsideration of the maltreatment determination or disposition under section 626.556 or 626.557; or~~

(iii) ~~the individual did not request a hearing of the maltreatment determination or disposition under section 256.045; and~~

(2) ~~a determination that the information relied upon to disqualify an individual under subdivision 3d was correct based on serious or recurring maltreatment; or~~

(3) ~~a preponderance of evidence shows that the individual committed an act or acts that meet the definition of any of the crimes listed in subdivision 3d, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (4); or the individual's failure to make required reports under section 626.556, subdivision 3, or 626.557, subdivision 3, if:~~

(i) ~~the commissioner has issued a final order in an appeal of that determination under section 245A.08, subdivision 5, or 256.045, or a court has issued a final decision;~~

(ii) ~~the individual did not request reconsideration of the disqualification under this section; or~~

(iii) ~~the individual did not request a hearing on the disqualification under section 256.045~~ Whether a disqualification determination or maltreatment determination or disposition is deemed conclusive shall be governed according to section 245C.29.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 245A.041, is amended to read:

**245A.041 SYSTEMS AND RECORDS.**

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.



Subdivision 1. **ESTABLISHMENT; USE.** (a) The commissioner may establish systems and records to fulfill the requirements of section 245A.04. The commissioner may also use these systems and records to obtain and provide criminal history data from the bureau of criminal apprehension and data about substantiated maltreatment under section 626.556 or 626.557, for other purposes, provided that:

(1) the background study is specifically authorized in statute; or

(2) the request is made with the informed consent of the subject of the study as provided in section 13.05, subdivision 4.

A person making a request under clause (2) must agree in writing not to disclose the data to any other person without the consent of the subject of the data.

(b) The commissioner may recover the cost of obtaining and providing background study data by charging the person requesting the study a fee of no more than \$12 per study. The fees collected under this paragraph are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of conducting background studies. The commissioner's establishment and use of systems and records to fulfill the requirements under chapter 245C shall be governed according to section 245C.32, subdivisions 1 and 2.

Subd. 2. **NATIONAL RECORDS SEARCH.** (a) When specifically required by statute, the commissioner shall also obtain criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository. To obtain criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository, the commissioner shall require classifiable fingerprints of the data subject and must submit these fingerprint requests through the bureau of criminal apprehension. The commissioner may recover the cost of obtaining and providing criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository by charging the person requesting the study a fee of no more than \$30 per study. The fees collected under this subdivision are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of obtaining criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository.

(b) To obtain criminal history data from the National Criminal Records Repository under this chapter, the commissioner may require the background study subject to submit fingerprint images electronically. The commissioner may not require electronic fingerprint images until the electronic recording and transfer system is available for non-criminal-justice purposes and the necessary equipment is in use in the law enforcement agency in the background study subject's local community. National records searches shall be governed according to section 245C.32, subdivision 3.

#### Sec. 10. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 to 9 are effective the day following final enactment.

Presented to the governor April 16, 2003

Signed by the governor April 17, 2003, 10:35 a.m.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.