

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETIETH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1704**

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DATE  
03/02/2017

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Human Services Reform Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to human services; modifying allocation and permitted uses of county
- 1.3 child protection funds; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016,
- 1.4 section 256M.41, subdivisions 2, 3.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 256M.41, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 2. **Prohibition on supplanting existing funds.** (a) Funds received under this
- 1.8 section must be used to address staffing for child protection or expand child protection
- 1.9 services. Funds must not be used to supplant current county expenditures for these purposes.:
- 1.10 (1) address staffing for child protection;
- 1.11 (2) expand child protection services;
- 1.12 (3) provide training to county child protection screening staff, investigators, or case
- 1.13 managers; and
- 1.14 (4) improve retention of county child protection screening staff, investigators, or case
- 1.15 managers.
- 1.16 (b) Funds must not be used to supplant current county expenditures for these purposes.
- 1.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 256M.41, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- 1.18 Subd. 3. **Payments based on performance.** (a) The commissioner shall make payments
- 1.19 under this section to each county board on a calendar year basis in an amount determined
- 1.20 under paragraph (b).

(b) Calendar year allocations under subdivision 1 shall be paid to counties in the following manner:

(1) ~~80~~ 90 percent of the allocation as determined in subdivision 1 must be paid to counties on or before July 10 of each year;

(2) ~~ten~~ five percent of the allocation shall be withheld until the commissioner determines if the county has met the performance outcome threshold of 90 percent based on face-to-face contact with alleged child victims. In order to receive the performance allocation, the county child protection workers must have a timely face-to-face contact with at least 90 percent of all alleged child victims of screened-in maltreatment reports. The standard requires that each initial face-to-face contact occur consistent with timelines defined in section 626.556, subdivision 10, paragraph (i). The commissioner shall make threshold determinations in January of each year and payments to counties meeting the performance outcome threshold shall occur in February of each year. Any withheld funds from this appropriation for counties that do not meet this requirement shall be reallocated by the commissioner to those counties meeting the requirement; and

(3) ~~ten~~ five percent of the allocation shall be withheld until the commissioner determines that the county has met the performance outcome threshold of 90 percent based on face-to-face visits by the case manager. In order to receive the performance allocation, the total number of visits made by caseworkers on a monthly basis to children in foster care and children receiving child protection services while residing in their home must be at least 90 percent of the total number of such visits that would occur if every child were visited once per month. The commissioner shall make such determinations in January of each year and payments to counties meeting the performance outcome threshold shall occur in February of each year. Any withheld funds from this appropriation for counties that do not meet this requirement shall be reallocated by the commissioner to those counties meeting the requirement. For 2015, the commissioner shall only apply the standard for monthly foster care visits.

(c) The commissioner shall work with stakeholders and the Human Services Performance Council under section 402A.16 to develop recommendations for specific outcome measures that counties should meet in order to receive funds withheld under paragraph (b), and include in those recommendations a determination as to whether the performance measures under paragraph (b) should be modified or phased out. The commissioner shall report the recommendations to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over child protection issues by January 1, 2018.

3.1       Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.2       \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2018 from the general fund to the commissioner of  
3.3       human services for child protection grants to counties under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.4       256M.41. The unencumbered balance in the first year does not cancel but is available for  
3.5       the second year.