

145.3

ARTICLE 9

145.4

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE FINANCE

145.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.03, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

145.6 Subd. 2. **Duties of the commissioner.** (a) The commissioner may apply for and accept
145.7 on behalf of the state any grants, bequests, gifts, or contributions for the purpose of carrying
145.8 out the duties and responsibilities of the commissioner. Any money received under this
145.9 paragraph is appropriated and dedicated for the purpose for which the money is granted.
145.10 The commissioner must biennially report to the chairs and ranking minority members of
145.11 relevant legislative committees and divisions by January 15 of each even-numbered year a
145.12 list of all grants and gifts received under this subdivision.

145.13 (b) Pursuant to law, the commissioner may apply for and receive money made available
145.14 from federal sources for the purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the
145.15 commissioner.

145.16 (c) The commissioner may make contracts with and grants to Tribal Nations, public and
145.17 private agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and individuals using appropriated
145.18 money.

145.19 (d) The commissioner must develop program objectives and performance measures for
145.20 evaluating progress toward achieving the objectives. The commissioner must identify the
145.21 objectives, performance measures, and current status of achieving the measures in a biennial
145.22 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of relevant legislative committees and
145.23 divisions. The report is due no later than January 15 each even-numbered year. The report
145.24 must include, when possible, the following objectives:

145.25 (1) centering and including the lived experiences of children and youth, including those
145.26 with disabilities and mental illness and their families, in all aspects of the department's work;

145.27 (2) increasing the effectiveness of the department's programs in addressing the needs of
145.28 children and youth facing racial, economic, or geographic inequities;

145.29 (3) increasing coordination and reducing inefficiencies among the department's programs
145.30 and the funding sources that support the programs;

146.1 (4) increasing the alignment and coordination of family access to child care and early
146.2 learning programs and improving systems of support for early childhood and learning
146.3 providers and services;

146.4 (5) improving the connection between the department's programs and the kindergarten
146.5 through grade 12 and higher education systems; and

146.6 (6) minimizing and streamlining the effort required of youth and families to receive
146.7 services to which the youth and families are entitled.

452.11

ARTICLE 17

452.12

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE

452.13 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.03, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

452.14 Subd. 2. **Duties of the commissioner.** (a) The commissioner may apply for and accept
452.15 on behalf of the state any grants, bequests, gifts, or contributions for the purpose of carrying
452.16 out the duties and responsibilities of the commissioner. Any money received under this
452.17 paragraph is appropriated and dedicated for the purpose for which the money is granted.
452.18 The commissioner must biennially report to the chairs and ranking minority members of
452.19 relevant legislative committees and divisions by January 15 of each even-numbered year a
452.20 list of all grants and gifts received under this subdivision.

452.21 (b) Pursuant to law, the commissioner may apply for and receive money made available
452.22 from federal sources for the purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the
452.23 commissioner.

452.24 (c) The commissioner may make contracts with and grants to Tribal Nations, public and
452.25 private agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and individuals using appropriated
452.26 money.

452.27 (d) The commissioner must develop program objectives and performance measures for
452.28 evaluating progress toward achieving the objectives. The commissioner must identify the
452.29 objectives, performance measures, and current status of achieving the measures in a biennial
452.30 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of relevant legislative committees and
453.1 divisions. The report is due no later than January 15 each even-numbered year. The report
453.2 must include, when possible, the following objectives:

453.3 (1) centering and including the lived experiences of children and youth, including those
453.4 with disabilities and mental illness and their families, in all aspects of the department's work;

453.5 (2) increasing the effectiveness of the department's programs in addressing the needs of
453.6 children and youth facing racial, economic, or geographic inequities;

453.7 (3) increasing coordination and reducing inefficiencies among the department's programs
453.8 and the funding sources that support the programs;

453.9 (4) increasing the alignment and coordination of family access to child care and early
453.10 learning programs and improving systems of support for early childhood and learning
453.11 providers and services;

453.12 (5) improving the connection between the department's programs and the kindergarten
453.13 through grade 12 and higher education systems; and

453.14 (6) minimizing and streamlining the effort required of youth and families to receive
453.15 services to which the youth and families are entitled.

146.8 (e) The commissioner shall administer and supervise the forms of public assistance and
146.9 other activities or services that are vested in the commissioner. Administration and
146.10 supervision of activities or services includes but is not limited to assuring timely and accurate
146.11 distribution of benefits, completeness of service, and quality program management. In
146.12 addition to administering and supervising activities vested by law in the department, the
146.13 commissioner has the authority to:

146.14 (1) require county agency participation in training and technical assistance programs to
146.15 promote compliance with statutes, rules, federal laws, regulations, and policies governing
146.16 the programs and activities administered by the commissioner;

146.17 (2) monitor, on an ongoing basis, the performance of county agencies in the operation
146.18 and administration of activities and programs; enforce compliance with statutes, rules,
146.19 federal laws, regulations, and policies governing welfare services; and promote excellence
146.20 of administration and program operation;

146.21 (3) develop a quality control program or other monitoring program to review county
146.22 performance and accuracy of benefit determinations;

146.23 (4) require county agencies to make an adjustment to the public assistance benefits issued
146.24 to any individual consistent with federal law and regulation and state law and rule and to
146.25 issue or recover benefits as appropriate;

146.26 (5) delay or deny payment of all or part of the state and federal share of benefits and
146.27 administrative reimbursement according to the procedures set forth in section 142A.10;

146.28 (6) make contracts with and grants to public and private agencies and organizations,
146.29 both for-profit and nonprofit, and individuals, using appropriated funds; and

146.30 (7) enter into contractual agreements with federally recognized Indian Tribes with a
146.31 reservation in Minnesota to the extent necessary for the Tribe to operate a federally approved
146.32 family assistance program or any other program under the supervision of the commissioner.
146.33 The commissioner shall consult with the affected county or counties in the contractual
147.1 agreement negotiations, if the county or counties wish to be included, in order to avoid the
147.2 duplication of county and Tribal assistance program services. The commissioner may
147.3 establish necessary accounts for the purposes of receiving and disbursing funds as necessary
147.4 for the operation of the programs.

147.5 The commissioner shall work in conjunction with the commissioner of human services to
147.6 carry out the duties of this paragraph when necessary and feasible.

147.7 (f) The commissioner shall inform county agencies, on a timely basis, of changes in
147.8 statute, rule, federal law, regulation, and policy necessary to county agency administration
147.9 of the programs and activities administered by the commissioner.

147.10 (g) The commissioner shall administer and supervise child welfare activities, including
147.11 promoting the enforcement of laws preventing child maltreatment and protecting children
147.12 with a disability and children who are in need of protection or services, licensing and

453.16 (e) The commissioner shall administer and supervise the forms of public assistance and
453.17 other activities or services that are vested in the commissioner. Administration and
453.18 supervision of activities or services includes but is not limited to assuring timely and accurate
453.19 distribution of benefits, completeness of service, and quality program management. In
453.20 addition to administering and supervising activities vested by law in the department, the
453.21 commissioner has the authority to:

453.22 (1) require county agency participation in training and technical assistance programs to
453.23 promote compliance with statutes, rules, federal laws, regulations, and policies governing
453.24 the programs and activities administered by the commissioner;

453.25 (2) monitor, on an ongoing basis, the performance of county agencies in the operation
453.26 and administration of activities and programs; enforce compliance with statutes, rules,
453.27 federal laws, regulations, and policies governing welfare services; and promote excellence
453.28 of administration and program operation;

453.29 (3) develop a quality control program or other monitoring program to review county
453.30 performance and accuracy of benefit determinations;

454.1 (4) require county agencies to make an adjustment to the public assistance benefits issued
454.2 to any individual consistent with federal law and regulation and state law and rule and to
454.3 issue or recover benefits as appropriate;

454.4 (5) delay or deny payment of all or part of the state and federal share of benefits and
454.5 administrative reimbursement according to the procedures set forth in section 142A.10;

454.6 (6) make contracts with and grants to public and private agencies and organizations,
454.7 both for-profit and nonprofit, and individuals, using appropriated funds; and

454.8 (7) enter into contractual agreements with federally recognized Indian Tribes with a
454.9 reservation in Minnesota to the extent necessary for the Tribe to operate a federally approved
454.10 family assistance program or any other program under the supervision of the commissioner.
454.11 The commissioner shall consult with the affected county or counties in the contractual
454.12 agreement negotiations, if the county or counties wish to be included, in order to avoid the
454.13 duplication of county and Tribal assistance program services. The commissioner may
454.14 establish necessary accounts for the purposes of receiving and disbursing funds as necessary
454.15 for the operation of the programs.

454.16 The commissioner shall work in conjunction with the commissioner of human services to
454.17 carry out the duties of this paragraph when necessary and feasible.

454.18 (f) The commissioner shall inform county agencies, on a timely basis, of changes in
454.19 statute, rule, federal law, regulation, and policy necessary to county agency administration
454.20 of the programs and activities administered by the commissioner.

454.21 (g) The commissioner shall administer and supervise child welfare activities, including
454.22 promoting the enforcement of laws preventing child maltreatment and protecting children
454.23 with a disability and children who are in need of protection or services, licensing and

147.13 supervising child care and child-placing agencies, and supervising the care of children in
147.14 foster care. The commissioner shall coordinate with the commissioner of human services
147.15 on activities impacting children overseen by the Department of Human Services, such as
147.16 disability services, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment.

147.17 (h) The commissioner shall assist and cooperate with local, state, and federal departments,
147.18 agencies, and institutions.

147.19 (i) The commissioner shall establish and maintain any administrative units reasonably
147.20 necessary for the performance of administrative functions common to all divisions of the
147.21 department.

147.22 (j) The commissioner shall act as designated guardian of children pursuant to chapter
147.23 260C. For children under the guardianship of the commissioner or a Tribe in Minnesota
147.24 recognized by the Secretary of the Interior whose interests would be best served by adoptive
147.25 placement, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a
147.26 Minnesota Tribal social services agency to provide adoption services. For children in
147.27 out-of-home care whose interests would be best served by a transfer of permanent legal and
147.28 physical custody to a relative under section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or equivalent in Tribal
147.29 code, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a Minnesota
147.30 Tribal social services agency to provide permanency services. A contract with a licensed
147.31 child-placing agency must be designed to supplement existing county efforts and may not
147.32 replace existing county programs or Tribal social services, unless the replacement is agreed
147.33 to by the county board and the appropriate exclusive bargaining representative, Tribal
147.34 governing body, or the commissioner has evidence that child placements of the county
148.1 continue to be substantially below that of other counties. Funds encumbered and obligated
148.2 under an agreement for a specific child shall remain available until the terms of the agreement
148.3 are fulfilled or the agreement is terminated.

148.4 (k) The commissioner has the authority to conduct and administer experimental projects
148.5 to test methods and procedures of administering assistance and services to recipients or
148.6 potential recipients of public benefits. To carry out the experimental projects, the
148.7 commissioner may waive the enforcement of existing specific statutory program
148.8 requirements, rules, and standards in one or more counties. The order establishing the waiver
148.9 must provide alternative methods and procedures of administration and must not conflict
148.10 with the basic purposes, coverage, or benefits provided by law. No project under this
148.11 paragraph shall exceed four years. No order establishing an experimental project as authorized
148.12 by this paragraph is effective until the following conditions have been met:

148.13 (1) the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services has agreed, for the same
148.14 project, to waive state plan requirements relative to statewide uniformity; and

148.15 (2) a comprehensive plan, including estimated project costs, has been approved by the
148.16 Legislative Advisory Commission and filed with the commissioner of administration.

454.24 supervising child care and child-placing agencies, and supervising the care of children in
454.25 foster care. The commissioner shall coordinate with the commissioner of human services
454.26 on activities impacting children overseen by the Department of Human Services, such as
454.27 disability services, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment.

454.28 (h) The commissioner shall assist and cooperate with local, state, and federal departments,
454.29 agencies, and institutions.

454.30 (i) The commissioner shall establish and maintain any administrative units reasonably
454.31 necessary for the performance of administrative functions common to all divisions of the
454.32 department.

455.1 (j) The commissioner shall act as designated guardian of children pursuant to chapter
455.2 260C. For children under the guardianship of the commissioner or a Tribe in Minnesota
455.3 recognized by the Secretary of the Interior whose interests would be best served by adoptive
455.4 placement, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a
455.5 Minnesota Tribal social services agency to provide adoption services. For children in
455.6 out-of-home care whose interests would be best served by a transfer of permanent legal and
455.7 physical custody to a relative under section 260C.515, subdivision 4, or equivalent in Tribal
455.8 code, the commissioner may contract with a licensed child-placing agency or a Minnesota
455.9 Tribal social services agency to provide permanency services. A contract with a licensed
455.10 child-placing agency must be designed to supplement existing county efforts and may not
455.11 replace existing county programs or Tribal social services, unless the replacement is agreed
455.12 to by the county board and the appropriate exclusive bargaining representative, Tribal
455.13 governing body, or the commissioner has evidence that child placements of the county
455.14 continue to be substantially below that of other counties. Funds encumbered and obligated
455.15 under an agreement for a specific child shall remain available until the terms of the agreement
455.16 are fulfilled or the agreement is terminated.

455.17 (k) The commissioner has the authority to conduct and administer experimental projects
455.18 to test methods and procedures of administering assistance and services to recipients or
455.19 potential recipients of public benefits. To carry out the experimental projects, the
455.20 commissioner may waive the enforcement of existing specific statutory program
455.21 requirements, rules, and standards in one or more counties. The order establishing the waiver
455.22 must provide alternative methods and procedures of administration and must not conflict
455.23 with the basic purposes, coverage, or benefits provided by law. No project under this
455.24 paragraph shall exceed four years. No order establishing an experimental project as authorized
455.25 by this paragraph is effective until the following conditions have been met:

455.26 (1) the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services has agreed, for the same
455.27 project, to waive state plan requirements relative to statewide uniformity; and

455.28 (2) a comprehensive plan, including estimated project costs, has been approved by the
455.29 Legislative Advisory Commission and filed with the commissioner of administration.

148.17 (l) The commissioner shall, according to federal requirements and in coordination with
148.18 the commissioner of human services, establish procedures to be followed by local welfare
148.19 boards in creating citizen advisory committees, including procedures for selection of
148.20 committee members.

148.21 (m) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions that are
148.22 based on quality control error rates for the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC)
148.23 program formerly codified in sections 256.72 to 256.87 or the Supplemental Nutrition
148.24 Assistance Program (SNAP) in the following manner:

148.25 (1) one-half of the total amount of the disallowance shall be borne by the county boards
148.26 responsible for administering the programs. For AFDC, disallowances shall be shared by
148.27 each county board in the same proportion as that county's expenditures to the total of all
148.28 counties' expenditures for AFDC. For SNAP, sanctions shall be shared by each county
148.29 board, with 50 percent of the sanction being distributed to each county in the same proportion
148.30 as that county's administrative costs for SNAP benefits are to the total of all SNAP
148.31 administrative costs for all counties, and 50 percent of the sanctions being distributed to
148.32 each county in the same proportion as that county's value of SNAP benefits issued are to
148.33 the total of all benefits issued for all counties. Each county shall pay its share of the
148.34 disallowance to the state of Minnesota. When a county fails to pay the amount due under
149.1 this paragraph, the commissioner may deduct the amount from reimbursement otherwise
149.2 due the county, or the attorney general, upon the request of the commissioner, may institute
149.3 civil action to recover the amount due; and

149.4 (2) notwithstanding the provisions of clause (1), if the disallowance results from knowing
149.5 noncompliance by one or more counties with a specific program instruction, and that knowing
149.6 noncompliance is a matter of official county board record, the commissioner may require
149.7 payment or recover from the county or counties, in the manner prescribed in clause (1), an
149.8 amount equal to the portion of the total disallowance that resulted from the noncompliance
149.9 and may distribute the balance of the disallowance according to clause (1).

149.10 (n) The commissioner shall develop and implement special projects that maximize
149.11 reimbursements and result in the recovery of money to the state. For the purpose of recovering
149.12 state money, the commissioner may enter into contracts with third parties. Any recoveries
149.13 that result from projects or contracts entered into under this paragraph shall be deposited
149.14 in the state treasury and credited to a special account until the balance in the account reaches
149.15 \$1,000,000. When the balance in the account exceeds \$1,000,000, the excess shall be
149.16 transferred and credited to the general fund. All money in the account is appropriated to the
149.17 commissioner for the purposes of this paragraph.

149.18 (o) The commissioner has the authority to establish and enforce the following county
149.19 reporting requirements:

149.20 (1) the commissioner shall establish fiscal and statistical reporting requirements necessary
149.21 to account for the expenditure of funds allocated to counties for programs administered by
149.22 the commissioner. When establishing financial and statistical reporting requirements, the

455.30 (l) The commissioner shall, according to federal requirements and in coordination with
455.31 the commissioner of human services, establish procedures to be followed by local welfare
455.32 boards in creating citizen advisory committees, including procedures for selection of
455.33 committee members.

456.1 (m) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions that are
456.2 based on quality control error rates for the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC)
456.3 program formerly codified in sections 256.72 to 256.87 or the Supplemental Nutrition
456.4 Assistance Program (SNAP) in the following manner:

456.5 (1) one-half of the total amount of the disallowance shall be borne by the county boards
456.6 responsible for administering the programs. For AFDC, disallowances shall be shared by
456.7 each county board in the same proportion as that county's expenditures to the total of all
456.8 counties' expenditures for AFDC. For SNAP, sanctions shall be shared by each county
456.9 board, with 50 percent of the sanction being distributed to each county in the same proportion
456.10 as that county's administrative costs for SNAP benefits are to the total of all SNAP
456.11 administrative costs for all counties, and 50 percent of the sanctions being distributed to
456.12 each county in the same proportion as that county's value of SNAP benefits issued are to
456.13 the total of all benefits issued for all counties. Each county shall pay its share of the
456.14 disallowance to the state of Minnesota. When a county fails to pay the amount due under
456.15 this paragraph, the commissioner may deduct the amount from reimbursement otherwise
456.16 due the county, or the attorney general, upon the request of the commissioner, may institute
456.17 civil action to recover the amount due; and

456.18 (2) notwithstanding the provisions of clause (1), if the disallowance results from knowing
456.19 noncompliance by one or more counties with a specific program instruction, and that knowing
456.20 noncompliance is a matter of official county board record, the commissioner may require
456.21 payment or recover from the county or counties, in the manner prescribed in clause (1), an
456.22 amount equal to the portion of the total disallowance that resulted from the noncompliance
456.23 and may distribute the balance of the disallowance according to clause (1).

456.24 (n) The commissioner shall develop and implement special projects that maximize
456.25 reimbursements and result in the recovery of money to the state. For the purpose of recovering
456.26 state money, the commissioner may enter into contracts with third parties. Any recoveries
456.27 that result from projects or contracts entered into under this paragraph shall be deposited
456.28 in the state treasury and credited to a special account until the balance in the account reaches
456.29 \$1,000,000. When the balance in the account exceeds \$1,000,000, the excess shall be
456.30 transferred and credited to the general fund. All money in the account is appropriated to the
456.31 commissioner for the purposes of this paragraph.

456.32 (o) The commissioner has the authority to establish and enforce the following county
456.33 reporting requirements:

457.1 (1) the commissioner shall establish fiscal and statistical reporting requirements necessary
457.2 to account for the expenditure of funds allocated to counties for programs administered by
457.3 the commissioner. When establishing financial and statistical reporting requirements, the

149.23 commissioner shall evaluate all reports, in consultation with the counties, to determine if
149.24 the reports can be simplified or the number of reports can be reduced;

149.25 (2) the county board shall submit monthly or quarterly reports to the department as
149.26 required by the commissioner. Monthly reports are due no later than 15 working days after
149.27 the end of the month. Quarterly reports are due no later than 30 calendar days after the end
149.28 of the quarter, unless the commissioner determines that the deadline must be shortened to
149.29 20 calendar days to avoid jeopardizing compliance with federal deadlines or risking a loss
149.30 of federal funding. Only reports that are complete, legible, and in the required format shall
149.31 be accepted by the commissioner;

149.32 (3) if the required reports are not received by the deadlines established in clause (2), the
149.33 commissioner may delay payments and withhold funds from the county board until the next
149.34 reporting period. When the report is needed to account for the use of federal funds and the
150.1 late report results in a reduction in federal funding, the commissioner shall withhold from
150.2 the county boards with late reports an amount equal to the reduction in federal funding until
150.3 full federal funding is received;

150.4 (4) a county board that submits reports that are late, illegible, incomplete, or not in the
150.5 required format for two out of three consecutive reporting periods is considered
150.6 noncompliant. When a county board is found to be noncompliant, the commissioner shall
150.7 notify the county board of the reason the county board is considered noncompliant and
150.8 request that the county board develop a corrective action plan stating how the county board
150.9 plans to correct the problem. The corrective action plan must be submitted to the
150.10 commissioner within 45 days after the date the county board received notice of
150.11 noncompliance;

150.12 (5) the final deadline for fiscal reports or amendments to fiscal reports is one year after
150.13 the date the report was originally due. If the commissioner does not receive a report by the
150.14 final deadline, the county board forfeits the funding associated with the report for that
150.15 reporting period and the county board must repay any funds associated with the report
150.16 received for that reporting period;

150.17 (6) the commissioner may not delay payments, withhold funds, or require repayment
150.18 under clause (3) or (5) if the county demonstrates that the commissioner failed to provide
150.19 appropriate forms, guidelines, and technical assistance to enable the county to comply with
150.20 the requirements. If the county board disagrees with an action taken by the commissioner
150.21 under clause (3) or (5), the county board may appeal the action according to sections 14.57
150.22 to 14.69; and

150.23 (7) counties subject to withholding of funds under clause (3) or forfeiture or repayment
150.24 of funds under clause (5) shall not reduce or withhold benefits or services to clients to cover
150.25 costs incurred due to actions taken by the commissioner under clause (3) or (5).

457.4 commissioner shall evaluate all reports, in consultation with the counties, to determine if
457.5 the reports can be simplified or the number of reports can be reduced;

457.6 (2) the county board shall submit monthly or quarterly reports to the department as
457.7 required by the commissioner. Monthly reports are due no later than 15 working days after
457.8 the end of the month. Quarterly reports are due no later than 30 calendar days after the end
457.9 of the quarter, unless the commissioner determines that the deadline must be shortened to
457.10 20 calendar days to avoid jeopardizing compliance with federal deadlines or risking a loss
457.11 of federal funding. Only reports that are complete, legible, and in the required format shall
457.12 be accepted by the commissioner;

457.13 (3) if the required reports are not received by the deadlines established in clause (2), the
457.14 commissioner may delay payments and withhold funds from the county board until the next
457.15 reporting period. When the report is needed to account for the use of federal funds and the
457.16 late report results in a reduction in federal funding, the commissioner shall withhold from
457.17 the county boards with late reports an amount equal to the reduction in federal funding until
457.18 full federal funding is received;

457.19 (4) a county board that submits reports that are late, illegible, incomplete, or not in the
457.20 required format for two out of three consecutive reporting periods is considered
457.21 noncompliant. When a county board is found to be noncompliant, the commissioner shall
457.22 notify the county board of the reason the county board is considered noncompliant and
457.23 request that the county board develop a corrective action plan stating how the county board
457.24 plans to correct the problem. The corrective action plan must be submitted to the
457.25 commissioner within 45 days after the date the county board received notice of
457.26 noncompliance;

457.27 (5) the final deadline for fiscal reports or amendments to fiscal reports is one year after
457.28 the date the report was originally due. If the commissioner does not receive a report by the
457.29 final deadline, the county board forfeits the funding associated with the report for that
457.30 reporting period and the county board must repay any funds associated with the report
457.31 received for that reporting period;

457.32 (6) the commissioner may not delay payments, withhold funds, or require repayment
457.33 under clause (3) or (5) if the county demonstrates that the commissioner failed to provide
457.34 appropriate forms, guidelines, and technical assistance to enable the county to comply with
458.1 the requirements. If the county board disagrees with an action taken by the commissioner
458.2 under clause (3) or (5), the county board may appeal the action according to sections 14.57
458.3 to 14.69; and

458.4 (7) counties subject to withholding of funds under clause (3) or forfeiture or repayment
458.5 of funds under clause (5) shall not reduce or withhold benefits or services to clients to cover
458.6 costs incurred due to actions taken by the commissioner under clause (3) or (5).

150.26 (p) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions for audit
150.27 exceptions when federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions are based on a statewide random
150.28 sample in direct proportion to each county's claim for that period.

150.29 (q) The commissioner is responsible for ensuring the detection, prevention, investigation,
150.30 and resolution of fraudulent activities or behavior by applicants, recipients, and other
150.31 participants in the programs administered by the department. The commissioner shall
150.32 cooperate with the commissioner of education to enforce the requirements for program
150.33 integrity and fraud prevention for investigation for child care assistance under chapter 142E.

151.1 (r) The commissioner shall require county agencies to identify overpayments, establish
151.2 claims, and utilize all available and cost-beneficial methodologies to collect and recover
151.3 these overpayments in the programs administered by the department.

151.4 (s) The commissioner shall develop recommended standards for child foster care homes
151.5 that address the components of specialized therapeutic services to be provided by child
151.6 foster care homes with those services.

151.7 (t) The commissioner shall authorize the method of payment to or from the department
151.8 as part of the programs administered by the department. This authorization includes the
151.9 receipt or disbursement of funds held by the department in a fiduciary capacity as part of
151.10 the programs administered by the department.

151.11 (u) In coordination with the commissioner of human services, the commissioner shall
151.12 create and provide county and Tribal agencies with blank applications, affidavits, and other
151.13 forms as necessary for public assistance programs.

151.14 (v) The commissioner shall cooperate with the federal government and its public welfare
151.15 agencies in any reasonable manner as may be necessary to qualify for federal aid for
151.16 temporary assistance for needy families and in conformity with Title I of Public Law 104-193,
151.17 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and successor
151.18 amendments, including making reports that contain information required by the federal
151.19 Social Security Advisory Board and complying with any provisions the board may find
151.20 necessary to assure the correctness and verification of the reports.

151.21 (w) On or before January 15 in each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall make
151.22 a biennial report to the governor concerning the activities of the agency.

151.23 (x) The commissioner shall enter into agreements with other departments of the state as
151.24 necessary to meet all requirements of the federal government.

151.25 (y) The commissioner may cooperate with other state agencies in establishing reciprocal
151.26 agreements in instances where a child receiving Minnesota family investment program
151.27 (MFIP) assistance or its out-of-state equivalent moves or contemplates moving into or out
151.28 of the state, in order that the child may continue to receive MFIP or equivalent aid from the
151.29 state moved from until the child has resided for one year in the state moved to.

458.7 (p) The commissioner shall allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions for audit
458.8 exceptions when federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions are based on a statewide random
458.9 sample in direct proportion to each county's claim for that period.

458.10 (q) The commissioner is responsible for ensuring the detection, prevention, investigation,
458.11 and resolution of fraudulent activities or behavior by applicants, recipients, and other
458.12 participants in the programs administered by the department. The commissioner shall
458.13 cooperate with the commissioner of education to enforce the requirements for program
458.14 integrity and fraud prevention for investigation for child care assistance under chapter 142E.

458.15 (r) The commissioner shall require county agencies to identify overpayments, establish
458.16 claims, and utilize all available and cost-beneficial methodologies to collect and recover
458.17 these overpayments in the programs administered by the department.

458.18 (s) The commissioner shall develop recommended standards for child foster care homes
458.19 that address the components of specialized therapeutic services to be provided by child
458.20 foster care homes with those services.

458.21 (t) The commissioner shall authorize the method of payment to or from the department
458.22 as part of the programs administered by the department. This authorization includes the
458.23 receipt or disbursement of funds held by the department in a fiduciary capacity as part of
458.24 the programs administered by the department.

458.25 (u) In coordination with the commissioner of human services, the commissioner shall
458.26 create and provide county and Tribal agencies with blank applications, affidavits, and other
458.27 forms as necessary for public assistance programs.

458.28 (v) The commissioner shall cooperate with the federal government and its public welfare
458.29 agencies in any reasonable manner as may be necessary to qualify for federal aid for
458.30 temporary assistance for needy families and in conformity with Title I of Public Law 104-193,
458.31 the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and successor
458.32 amendments, including making reports that contain information required by the federal
459.1 Social Security Advisory Board and complying with any provisions the board may find
459.2 necessary to assure the correctness and verification of the reports.

459.3 (w) On or before January 15 in each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall make
459.4 a biennial report to the governor concerning the activities of the agency.

459.5 (x) The commissioner shall enter into agreements with other departments of the state as
459.6 necessary to meet all requirements of the federal government.

459.7 (y) The commissioner may cooperate with other state agencies in establishing reciprocal
459.8 agreements in instances where a child receiving Minnesota family investment program
459.9 (MFIP) assistance or its out-of-state equivalent moves or contemplates moving into or out
459.10 of the state, in order that the child may continue to receive MFIP or equivalent aid from the
459.11 state moved from until the child has resided for one year in the state moved to.

151.30 (z) The commissioner shall provide appropriate technical assistance to county agencies
151.31 to develop methods to have county financial workers remind and encourage recipients of
151.32 aid to families with dependent children, the Minnesota family investment program, the
151.33 Minnesota family investment plan, family general assistance, or SNAP benefits whose
152.1 assistance unit includes at least one child under the age of five to have each young child
152.2 immunized against childhood diseases. The commissioner must examine the feasibility of
152.3 utilizing the capacity of a statewide computer system to assist county agency financial
152.4 workers in performing this function at appropriate intervals.

152.5 (aa) The commissioner shall have the power and authority to accept on behalf of the
152.6 state contributions and gifts for the use and benefit of children under the guardianship or
152.7 custody of the commissioner. The commissioner may also receive and accept on behalf of
152.8 such children money due and payable to them as old age and survivors insurance benefits,
152.9 veterans benefits, pensions, or other such monetary benefits. Gifts, contributions, pensions,
152.10 and benefits under this paragraph must be deposited in and disbursed from the social welfare
152.11 fund provided for in sections 256.88 to 256.92.

152.12 (bb) The specific enumeration of powers and duties in this section must not be construed
152.13 to be a limitation upon the general powers granted to the commissioner.

152.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.810, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

152.15 Subdivision 1. **Payments.** The commissioner shall make grant payments to each approved
152.16 program in four quarterly installments a year. The commissioner may certify an advance
152.17 payment for the first quarter of the state fiscal year. Later payments must be made ~~upon~~
152.18 ~~receipt by the state of a quarterly report on finances and program activities quarterly.~~

152.19 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.810, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

152.20 Subd. 2. ~~Quarterly report Reporting.~~ The commissioner shall ~~specify~~ engage Tribal
152.21 ~~and urban Indian organizations to establish requirements for reports and reporting timelines,~~
152.22 ~~including quarterly fiscal reports submitted to the commissioner at least annually, according~~
152.23 ~~to section 142A.03, subdivision 2, paragraph (o). Each quarter reporting period as agreed~~
152.24 ~~upon by the commissioner and grantee, an approved program receiving an Indian child~~
152.25 ~~welfare grant shall submit a report to the commissioner that includes:~~

152.26 (1) a detailed accounting of grant money expended during the preceding ~~quarter reporting~~
152.27 ~~period,~~ specifying expenditures by line item and year to date; and

152.28 (2) a description of Indian child welfare activities conducted during the preceding ~~quarter~~
152.29 ~~reporting period,~~ including the number of clients served and the type of services provided.

152.30 ~~The quarterly~~ Reports must be submitted no later than 30 days after the ~~end of each~~
152.31 ~~quarter agreed upon reporting timelines~~ of the state fiscal year.

459.12 (z) The commissioner shall provide appropriate technical assistance to county agencies
459.13 to develop methods to have county financial workers remind and encourage recipients of
459.14 aid to families with dependent children, the Minnesota family investment program, the
459.15 Minnesota family investment plan, family general assistance, or SNAP benefits whose
459.16 assistance unit includes at least one child under the age of five to have each young child
459.17 immunized against childhood diseases. The commissioner must examine the feasibility of
459.18 utilizing the capacity of a statewide computer system to assist county agency financial
459.19 workers in performing this function at appropriate intervals.

459.20 (aa) The commissioner shall have the power and authority to accept on behalf of the
459.21 state contributions and gifts for the use and benefit of children under the guardianship or
459.22 custody of the commissioner. The commissioner may also receive and accept on behalf of
459.23 such children money due and payable to them as old age and survivors insurance benefits,
459.24 veterans benefits, pensions, or other such monetary benefits. Gifts, contributions, pensions,
459.25 and benefits under this paragraph must be deposited in and disbursed from the social welfare
459.26 fund provided for in sections 256.88 to 256.92.

459.27 (bb) The specific enumeration of powers and duties in this section must not be construed
459.28 to be a limitation upon the general powers granted to the commissioner.

459.29 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.810, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

459.30 Subdivision 1. **Payments.** The commissioner shall make grant payments to each approved
459.31 program in four quarterly installments a year. The commissioner may certify an advance
459.32 payment for the first quarter of the state fiscal year. Later payments must be made ~~upon~~
459.33 ~~receipt by the state of a quarterly report on finances and program activities quarterly.~~

460.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.810, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

460.2 Subd. 2. ~~Quarterly report Reporting.~~ The commissioner shall ~~specify~~ engage Tribal
460.3 ~~and urban Indian organizations to establish requirements for reports and reporting timelines,~~
460.4 ~~including quarterly fiscal reports submitted to the commissioner at least annually, according~~
460.5 ~~to section 142A.03, subdivision 2, paragraph (o). Each quarter reporting period as agreed~~
460.6 ~~upon by the commissioner and grantee, an approved program receiving an Indian child~~
460.7 ~~welfare grant shall submit a report to the commissioner that includes:~~

460.8 (1) a detailed accounting of grant money expended during the preceding ~~quarter reporting~~
460.9 ~~period,~~ specifying expenditures by line item and year to date; and

460.10 (2) a description of Indian child welfare activities conducted during the preceding ~~quarter~~
460.11 ~~reporting period,~~ including the number of clients served and the type of services provided.

460.12 ~~The quarterly~~ Reports must be submitted no later than 30 days after the ~~end of each~~
460.13 ~~quarter agreed upon reporting timelines~~ of the state fiscal year.

460.14 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 260.821, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

460.15 Subd. 2. **Special focus grants.** The amount available for grants established under section

460.16 260.785, subdivision 2, for child-placing agencies, Tribes, Indian organizations, and other

460.17 social services organizations is one-fifth of the total annual appropriation for Indian child

460.18 welfare grants. ~~The maximum award under this subdivision is \$100,000 a year for programs~~

460.19 ~~approved by the commissioner.~~

153.7 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 518.68, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

153.8 Subd. 2. **Contents.** (a) This subdivision expires January 1, 2027. For orders issued prior

153.9 to January 1, 2027, the required notices must be substantially as follows:

153.10 **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

153.11 1. PAYMENTS TO PUBLIC AGENCY

153.12 According to Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.50, payments ordered for maintenance
153.13 and support must be paid to the public agency responsible for child support enforcement
153.14 as long as the person entitled to receive the payments is receiving or has applied for
153.15 public assistance or has applied for support and maintenance collection services. MAIL
153.16 PAYMENTS TO:

153.17 2. DEPRIVING ANOTHER OF CUSTODIAL OR PARENTAL RIGHTS -- A FELONY

153.18 A person may be charged with a felony who conceals a minor child or takes, obtains,
153.19 retains, or fails to return a minor child from or to the child's parent (or person with
153.20 custodial or visitation rights), according to Minnesota Statutes, section 609.26. A copy
153.21 of that section is available from any district court clerk.

153.22 3. NONSUPPORT OF A SPOUSE OR CHILD -- CRIMINAL PENALTIES

153.23 A person who fails to pay court-ordered child support or maintenance may be charged
153.24 with a crime, which may include misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony charges,
153.25 according to Minnesota Statutes, section 609.375. A copy of that section is available
153.26 from any district court clerk.

153.27 4. RULES OF SUPPORT, MAINTENANCE, PARENTING TIME

153.28 (a) Payment of support or spousal maintenance is to be as ordered, and the giving of
153.29 gifts or making purchases of food, clothing, and the like will not fulfill the obligation.

154.1 (b) Payment of support must be made as it becomes due, and failure to secure or denial
154.2 of parenting time is NOT an excuse for nonpayment, but the aggrieved party must seek
154.3 relief through a proper motion filed with the court.

154.4 (c) Nonpayment of support is not grounds to deny parenting time. The party entitled to
154.5 receive support may apply for support and collection services, file a contempt motion,
154.6 or obtain a judgment as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091.

- 154.7 (d) The payment of support or spousal maintenance takes priority over payment of debts
154.8 and other obligations.
- 154.9 (e) A party who accepts additional obligations of support does so with the full knowledge
154.10 of the party's prior obligation under this proceeding.
- 154.11 (f) Child support or maintenance is based on annual income, and it is the responsibility
154.12 of a person with seasonal employment to budget income so that payments are made
154.13 throughout the year as ordered.
- 154.14 (g) Reasonable parenting time guidelines are contained in Appendix B, which is available
154.15 from the court administrator.
- 154.16 (h) The nonpayment of support may be enforced through the denial of student grants;
154.17 interception of state and federal tax refunds; suspension of driver's, recreational, and
154.18 occupational licenses; referral to the department of revenue or private collection agencies;
154.19 seizure of assets, including bank accounts and other assets held by financial institutions;
154.20 reporting to credit bureaus; income withholding and contempt proceedings; and other
154.21 enforcement methods allowed by law.
- 154.22 (i) The public authority may suspend or resume collection of the amount allocated for
154.23 child care expenses if the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.40, subdivision
154.24 4, are met.
- 154.25 (j) The public authority may remove or resume a medical support offset if the conditions
154.26 of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.41, subdivision 16, are met.
- 154.27 5. MODIFYING CHILD SUPPORT
- 154.28 If either the obligor or obligee is laid off from employment or receives a pay reduction,
154.29 child support may be modified, increased, or decreased. Any modification will only take
154.30 effect when it is ordered by the court, and will only relate back to the time that a motion
154.31 is filed. Either the obligor or obligee may file a motion to modify child support, and may
154.32 request the public agency for help. UNTIL A MOTION IS FILED, THE CHILD
155.1 SUPPORT OBLIGATION WILL CONTINUE AT THE CURRENT LEVEL. THE
155.2 COURT IS NOT PERMITTED TO REDUCE SUPPORT RETROACTIVELY.
- 155.3 6. PARENTAL RIGHTS FROM MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 518.17,
155.4 SUBDIVISION 3
- 155.5 Unless otherwise provided by the Court:
- 155.6 (a) Each party has the right of access to, and to receive copies of, school, medical, dental,
155.7 religious training, and other important records and information about the minor children.
155.8 Each party has the right of access to information regarding health or dental insurance
155.9 available to the minor children. Presentation of a copy of this order to the custodian of
155.10 a record or other information about the minor children constitutes sufficient authorization
155.11 for the release of the record or information to the requesting party.

155.12 (b) Each party shall keep the other informed as to the name and address of the school
155.13 of attendance of the minor children. Each party has the right to be informed by school
155.14 officials about the children's welfare, educational progress and status, and to attend
155.15 school and parent teacher conferences. The school is not required to hold a separate
155.16 conference for each party.

155.17 (c) In case of an accident or serious illness of a minor child, each party shall notify the
155.18 other party of the accident or illness, and the name of the health care provider and the
155.19 place of treatment.

155.20 (d) Each party has the right of reasonable access and telephone contact with the minor
155.21 children.

155.22 7. WAGE AND INCOME DEDUCTION OF SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

155.23 Child support and/or spousal maintenance may be withheld from income, with or without
155.24 notice to the person obligated to pay, when the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section
155.25 518A.53 have been met. A copy of those sections is available from any district court
155.26 clerk.

155.27 8. CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR RESIDENCE

155.28 Unless otherwise ordered, each party shall notify the other party, the court, and the public
155.29 authority responsible for collection, if applicable, of the following information within
155.30 ten days of any change: the residential and mailing address, telephone number, driver's
155.31 license number, Social Security number, and name, address, and telephone number of
155.32 the employer.

156.1 9. COST OF LIVING INCREASE OF SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

156.2 Prior to January 1, 2027, basic support and/or spousal maintenance may be adjusted
156.3 every two years based upon a change in the cost of living (using Department of Labor
156.4 Consumer Price Index, unless otherwise specified in this order) when the
156.5 conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.75, are met. Cost of living increases are
156.6 compounded. A copy of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.75, and forms necessary to
156.7 request or contest a cost of living increase are available from any district court clerk.

156.8 10. JUDGMENTS FOR UNPAID SUPPORT

156.9 If a person fails to make a child support payment, the payment owed becomes a judgment
156.10 against the person responsible to make the payment by operation of law on or after the
156.11 date the payment is due, and the person entitled to receive the payment or the public
156.12 agency may obtain entry and docketing of the judgment WITHOUT NOTICE to the
156.13 person responsible to make the payment under Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091.

156.14 11. JUDGMENTS FOR UNPAID MAINTENANCE

156.15 (a) A judgment for unpaid spousal maintenance may be entered when the conditions of
156.16 Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091, are met. A copy of that section is available from
156.17 any district court clerk.

156.18 (b) The public authority is not responsible for calculating interest on any judgment for
156.19 unpaid spousal maintenance. When providing services in IV-D cases, as defined in
156.20 Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.26, subdivision 10, the public authority will only
156.21 collect interest on spousal maintenance if spousal maintenance is reduced to a sum
156.22 certain judgment.

156.23 12. ATTORNEY FEES AND COLLECTION COSTS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD
156.24 SUPPORT

156.25 A judgment for attorney fees and other collection costs incurred in enforcing a child
156.26 support order will be entered against the person responsible to pay support when the
156.27 conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.735, are met. A copy of Minnesota
156.28 Statutes, sections 518.14 and 518A.735 and forms necessary to request or contest these
156.29 attorney fees and collection costs are available from any district court clerk.

156.30 13. PARENTING TIME EXPEDITOR PROCESS

156.31 On request of either party or on its own motion, the court may appoint a parenting time
156.32 expeditor to resolve parenting time disputes under Minnesota Statutes, section 518.1751.
157.1 A copy of that section and a description of the expeditor process is available from any
157.2 district court clerk.

157.3 14. PARENTING TIME REMEDIES AND PENALTIES

157.4 Remedies and penalties for the wrongful denial of parenting time are available under
157.5 Minnesota Statutes, section 518.175, subdivision 6. These include compensatory parenting
157.6 time; civil penalties; bond requirements; contempt; and reversal of custody. A copy of
157.7 that subdivision and forms for requesting relief are available from any district court
157.8 clerk.

157.9 (b) For orders issued on or after January 1, 2027, the required notices must be
157.10 substantially as follows:

157.11 IMPORTANT NOTICE

157.12 1. PAYMENTS TO PUBLIC AGENCY

157.13 According to Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.50, payments ordered for maintenance
157.14 and support must be paid to the public agency responsible for child support enforcement
157.15 as long as the person entitled to receive the payments is receiving or has applied for
157.16 public assistance or has applied for support and maintenance collection services. MAIL
157.17 PAYMENTS TO:

157.18 2. DEPRIVING ANOTHER OF CUSTODIAL OR PARENTAL RIGHTS -- A FELONY

157.19 A person may be charged with a felony who conceals a minor child or takes, obtains,
157.20 retains, or fails to return a minor child from or to the child's parent (or person with
157.21 custodial or visitation rights), according to Minnesota Statutes, section 609.26. A copy
157.22 of that section is available from any district court clerk.

157.23 3. NONSUPPORT OF A SPOUSE OR CHILD -- CRIMINAL PENALTIES

157.24 A person who fails to pay court-ordered child support or maintenance may be charged
157.25 with a crime, which may include misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony charges,
157.26 according to Minnesota Statutes, section 609.375. A copy of that section is available
157.27 from any district court clerk.

157.28 4. RULES OF SUPPORT, MAINTENANCE, PARENTING TIME

157.29 (a) Payment of support or spousal maintenance is to be as ordered, and the giving of
157.30 gifts or making purchases of food, clothing, and the like will not fulfill the obligation.

158.1 (b) Payment of support must be made as it becomes due, and failure to secure or denial
158.2 of parenting time is NOT an excuse for nonpayment, but the aggrieved party must seek
158.3 relief through a proper motion filed with the court.

158.4 (c) Nonpayment of support is not grounds to deny parenting time. The party entitled to
158.5 receive support may apply for support and collection services, file a contempt motion,
158.6 or obtain a judgment as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091.

158.7 (d) The payment of support or spousal maintenance takes priority over payment of debts
158.8 and other obligations.

158.9 (e) A party who accepts additional obligations of support does so with the full knowledge
158.10 of the party's prior obligation under this proceeding.

158.11 (f) Child support or maintenance is based on annual income, and it is the responsibility
158.12 of a person with seasonal employment to budget income so that payments are made
158.13 throughout the year as ordered.

158.14 (g) Reasonable parenting time guidelines are contained in Appendix B, which is available
158.15 from the court administrator.

158.16 (h) The nonpayment of support may be enforced through the denial of student grants;
158.17 interception of state and federal tax refunds; suspension of driver's, recreational, and
158.18 occupational licenses; referral to the Department of Revenue or private collection
158.19 agencies; seizure of assets, including bank accounts and other assets held by financial
158.20 institutions; reporting to credit bureaus; income withholding and contempt proceedings;
158.21 and other enforcement methods allowed by law.

158.22 (i) The public authority may suspend or resume collection of the amount allocated for
158.23 child care expenses if the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.40, subdivision
158.24 4, are met.

158.25 (j) The public authority may remove or resume a medical support offset if the conditions
158.26 of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.41, subdivision 16, are met.

158.27 5. MODIFYING CHILD SUPPORT

158.28 If either the obligor or obligee is laid off from employment or receives a pay reduction,
158.29 child support may be modified, increased, or decreased. Any modification will only take
158.30 effect when it is ordered by the court, and will only relate back to the time that a motion
158.31 is filed. Either the obligor or obligee may file a motion to modify child support, and may
158.32 request the public agency for help. UNTIL A MOTION IS FILED, THE CHILD
159.1 SUPPORT OBLIGATION WILL CONTINUE AT THE CURRENT LEVEL. THE
159.2 COURT IS NOT PERMITTED TO REDUCE SUPPORT RETROACTIVELY.

159.3 6. PARENTAL RIGHTS FROM MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 518.17,
159.4 SUBDIVISION 3

159.5 Unless otherwise provided by the court:

159.6 (a) Each party has the right of access to, and to receive copies of, school, medical, dental,
159.7 religious training, and other important records and information about the minor children.
159.8 Each party has the right of access to information regarding health or dental insurance
159.9 available to the minor children. Presentation of a copy of this order to the custodian of
159.10 a record or other information about the minor children constitutes sufficient authorization
159.11 for the release of the record or information to the requesting party.

159.12 (b) Each party shall keep the other informed as to the name and address of the school
159.13 of attendance of the minor children. Each party has the right to be informed by school
159.14 officials about the children's welfare, educational progress, and status, and to attend
159.15 school and parent-teacher conferences. The school is not required to hold a separate
159.16 conference for each party.

159.17 (c) In case of an accident or serious illness of a minor child, each party shall notify the
159.18 other party of the accident or illness, and the name of the health care provider and the
159.19 place of treatment.

159.20 (d) Each party has the right of reasonable access and telephone contact with the minor
159.21 children.

159.22 7. WAGE AND INCOME DEDUCTION OF SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE

159.23 Child support and/or spousal maintenance may be withheld from income, with or without
159.24 notice to the person obligated to pay, when the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section

159.25 518A.53, have been met. A copy of those sections is available from any district court
159.26 clerk.

159.27 8. CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR RESIDENCE

159.28 Unless otherwise ordered, each party shall notify the other party, the court, and the public
159.29 authority responsible for collection, if applicable, of the following information within
159.30 ten days of any change: the residential and mailing address, telephone number, driver's
159.31 license number, Social Security number, and name, address, and telephone number of
159.32 the employer.

160.1 9. JUDGMENTS FOR UNPAID SUPPORT

160.2 If a person fails to make a child support payment, the payment owed becomes a judgment
160.3 against the person responsible to make the payment by operation of law on or after the
160.4 date the payment is due, and the person entitled to receive the payment or the public
160.5 agency may obtain entry and docketing of the judgment WITHOUT NOTICE to the
160.6 person responsible to make the payment under Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091.

160.7 10. JUDGMENTS FOR UNPAID MAINTENANCE

160.8 (a) A judgment for unpaid spousal maintenance may be entered when the conditions of
160.9 Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091, are met. A copy of that section is available from
160.10 any district court clerk.

160.11 (b) The public authority is not responsible for calculating interest on any judgment for
160.12 unpaid spousal maintenance. When providing services in IV-D cases, as defined in
160.13 Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.26, subdivision 10, the public authority will only
160.14 collect interest on spousal maintenance if spousal maintenance is reduced to a sum
160.15 certain judgment.

160.16 11. ATTORNEY FEES AND COLLECTION COSTS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD
160.17 SUPPORT

160.18 A judgment for attorney fees and other collection costs incurred in enforcing a child
160.19 support order will be entered against the person responsible to pay support when the
160.20 conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518A.735, are met. A copy of Minnesota
160.21 Statutes, sections 518.14 and 518A.735, and forms necessary to request or contest these
160.22 attorney fees and collection costs are available from any district court clerk.

160.23 12. PARENTING TIME EXPEDITOR PROCESS

160.24 On request of either party or on its own motion, the court may appoint a parenting time
160.25 expeditor to resolve parenting time disputes under Minnesota Statutes, section 518.1751.
160.26 A copy of that section and a description of the expeditor process is available from any
160.27 district court clerk.

160.28 13. PARENTING TIME REMEDIES AND PENALTIES

160.29 Remedies and penalties for the wrongful denial of parenting time are available under
160.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 518.175, subdivision 6. These include compensatory parenting
160.31 time, civil penalties, bond requirements, contempt, and reversal of custody. A copy of
160.32 that subdivision and forms for requesting relief are available from any district court
160.33 clerk.

161.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 518A.34, is amended to read:

161.2 **518A.34 COMPUTATION OF CHILD SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS.**

161.3 (a) To determine the presumptive child support obligation of a parent, the court shall
161.4 follow the procedure set forth in this section.

161.5 (b) To determine the obligor's basic support obligation, the court shall:

161.6 (1) determine the gross income of each parent under section 518A.29;

161.7 (2) calculate the parental income for determining child support (PICS) of each parent,
161.8 by subtracting from the gross income the credit, if any, for each parent's nonjoint children
161.9 under section 518A.33;

161.10 (3) determine the percentage contribution of each parent to the combined PICS by
161.11 dividing the combined PICS into each parent's PICS;

161.12 (4) determine the combined basic support obligation by application of the guidelines in
161.13 section 518A.35;

161.14 (5) determine each parent's share of the combined basic support obligation by multiplying
161.15 the percentage figure from clause (3) by the combined basic support obligation in clause
161.16 (4); and

161.17 (6) apply the parenting expense adjustment formula provided in section 518A.36 to
161.18 determine the obligor's basic support obligation.

161.19 (c) If the parents have split custody of joint children, child support must be calculated
161.20 for each joint child as follows:

161.21 (1) the court shall determine each parent's basic support obligation under paragraph (b)
161.22 and include the amount of each parent's obligation in the court order. If the basic support
161.23 calculation results in each parent owing support to the other, the court shall offset the higher
161.24 basic support obligation with the lower basic support obligation to determine the amount
161.25 to be paid by the parent with the higher obligation to the parent with the lower obligation.
161.26 ~~For the purpose of the cost-of-living adjustment required under section 518A.75, the~~
161.27 ~~adjustment~~ a future modification, the application of section 518A.39 must be based on each
161.28 parent's basic support obligation prior to offset. For the purposes of this paragraph, "split
161.29 custody" means that there are two or more joint children and each parent has at least one
161.30 joint child more than 50 percent of the time;

161.31 (2) if each parent pays all child care expenses for at least one joint child, the court shall
161.32 calculate child care support for each joint child as provided in section 518A.40. The court
162.1 shall determine each parent's child care support obligation and include the amount of each
162.2 parent's obligation in the court order. If the child care support calculation results in each
162.3 parent owing support to the other, the court shall offset the higher child care support
162.4 obligation with the lower child care support obligation to determine the amount to be paid
162.5 by the parent with the higher obligation to the parent with the lower obligation; and

162.6 (3) if each parent pays all medical or dental insurance expenses for at least one joint
162.7 child, medical support shall be calculated for each joint child as provided in section 518A.41.
162.8 The court shall determine each parent's medical support obligation and include the amount
162.9 of each parent's obligation in the court order. If the medical support calculation results in
162.10 each parent owing support to the other, the court shall offset the higher medical support
162.11 obligation with the lower medical support obligation to determine the amount to be paid by
162.12 the parent with the higher obligation to the parent with the lower obligation. Unreimbursed
162.13 and uninsured medical expenses are not included in the presumptive amount of support
162.14 owed by a parent and are calculated and collected as provided in section 518A.41.

162.15 (d) The court shall determine the child care support obligation for the obligor as provided
162.16 in section 518A.40.

162.17 (e) The court shall determine the medical support obligation for each parent as provided
162.18 in section 518A.41. Unreimbursed and uninsured medical expenses are not included in the
162.19 presumptive amount of support owed by a parent and are calculated and collected as described
162.20 in section 518A.41.

162.21 (f) The court shall determine each parent's total child support obligation by adding
162.22 together each parent's basic support, child care support, and health care coverage obligations
162.23 as provided in this section.

162.24 (g) If Social Security benefits or veterans' benefits are received by one parent as a
162.25 representative payee for a joint child based on the other parent's eligibility, the court shall
162.26 subtract the amount of benefits from the other parent's net child support obligation, if any.
162.27 Any benefit received by the obligee for the benefit of the joint child based upon the obligor's
162.28 disability or past earnings in any given month in excess of the child support obligation must
162.29 not be treated as an arrearage payment or a future payment.

162.30 (h) The final child support order shall separately designate the amount owed for basic
162.31 support, child care support, and medical support. If applicable, the court shall use the
162.32 self-support adjustment and minimum support adjustment under section 518A.42 to determine
162.33 the obligor's child support obligation.

162.34 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2027.

163.1 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 518A.46, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

163.2 Subd. 7. **Administrative redirection of support.** (a) The public authority must provide
163.3 written notice of redirection to the obligee, the obligor, and the caregiver. The notice must
163.4 be mailed to the obligor, obligee, and caregiver at the obligee's, the obligor's, and the
163.5 caregiver's respective last known address. The notice must state the name of the child or
163.6 children for whom support will be redirected, to whom the support will be redirected, the
163.7 date the support will be redirected, and the amount of the support that will be redirected.
163.8 The notice must also inform the parties of the right to contest the redirection of support
163.9 according to paragraph (c).

163.10 (b) If fewer than all of the children for whom the support is ordered reside with the
163.11 caregiver, the public authority must redirect the proportional share of the support for the
163.12 number of children residing with the caregiver.

163.13 (c) The obligee or obligor may contest the redirection of support on the limited grounds
163.14 that:

163.15 (1) the child or children do not reside or no longer reside with the caregiver;

163.16 (2) under an out-of-home placement plan under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, that
163.17 includes a plan for reunification, all or part of the support is needed to maintain the obligee's
163.18 home; or

163.19 (3) the redirection of support is not in the best interests of the child.

163.20 (d) To contest the redirection, the obligee or obligor must make a written request for a
163.21 hearing to the public authority within 30 calendar days of the date of the written notice of
163.22 redirection. The hearing must be held at the earliest practicable time, but no later than 30
163.23 calendar days from the date the public authority receives the written request for a hearing.
163.24 If the public authority receives a timely written request for a hearing, the public authority
163.25 must schedule a hearing and serve the obligee and the obligor with a notice of hearing at
163.26 least 14 days before the date of the hearing. The notice must be served personally or by
163.27 mail at the obligee's and the obligor's respective last known address. The public authority
163.28 must file with the court the notice of hearing along with the notice of redirection at least
163.29 five days before the scheduled hearing. The court administrator must schedule these hearings
163.30 to be heard in the expedited process before a child support magistrate, but may schedule
163.31 these hearings in district court if the availability of a child support magistrate does not permit
163.32 a hearing to occur within the time frames of this subdivision.

164.1 (e) If neither the obligee nor the obligor contests the redirection of support under this
164.2 subdivision, support must be redirected to the caregiver effective the first day of the month
164.3 following the expiration of the time period to contest under paragraph (d). If the obligee or
164.4 the obligor contests the redirection of support under paragraph (d), the public authority must
164.5 not redirect support to the caregiver pending the outcome of the hearing.

164.6 (f) The redirection of the basic support, medical support, and child care support terminates
164.7 and the public authority must direct support to the obligee if the public authority determines
164.8 that:

164.9 (1) the caregiver for the child no longer receives public assistance for the child;

164.10 (2) the voluntary placement agreement expires; ~~or~~

164.11 (3) the court order placing the child is no longer in effect; or

164.12 (4) the redirection of support is not in the best interests of the child as determined under

164.13 section 260B.331, subdivision 1, or 260C.331, subdivision 1.

164.14 (g) The public authority must notify the obligee, obligor, and caregiver of a termination
164.15 of the redirection of support by mailing a written notice to each of them at their last known
164.16 address. The termination is effective the first day of the month that occurs at least 14 calendar
164.17 days after the date the notice is mailed.

164.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 1, 2025.

164.19 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 518A.75, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

164.20 Subdivision 1. **Requirement.** (a) An order establishing, modifying, or enforcing
164.21 maintenance or child support shall provide for a biennial adjustment in the amount to be
164.22 paid based on a change in the cost of living. An order that provides for a cost-of-living
164.23 adjustment shall specify the cost-of-living index to be applied and the date on which the
164.24 cost-of-living adjustment shall become effective. The court may use the Consumer Price
164.25 Index for all urban consumers, Minneapolis-St. Paul (CPI-U), the Consumer Price Index
164.26 for wage earners and clerical, Minneapolis-St. Paul (CPI-W), or another cost-of-living index
164.27 published by the Department of Labor which it specifically finds is more appropriate.
164.28 Cost-of-living increases under this section shall be compounded. The court may also increase
164.29 the amount by more than the cost-of-living adjustment by agreement of the parties or by
164.30 making further findings.

164.31 (b) The adjustment becomes effective on the first of May of the year in which it is made,
164.32 for cases in which payment is made to the public authority. For cases in which payment is
165.1 not made to the public authority, application for an adjustment may be made in any month
165.2 but no application for an adjustment may be made sooner than two years after the date of
165.3 the dissolution decree. A court may waive the requirement of the cost-of-living clause if it
165.4 expressly finds that the obligor's occupation or income, or both, does not provide for
165.5 cost-of-living adjustment or that the order for maintenance or child support has a provision
165.6 such as a step increase that has the effect of a cost-of-living clause. The court may waive a
165.7 cost-of-living adjustment in a maintenance order if the parties so agree in writing. The
165.8 commissioner of children, youth, and families may promulgate rules for child support
165.9 adjustments under this section in accordance with the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14.
165.10 Notice of this statute must comply with section 518.68, subdivision 2.

165.11 (c) No adjustment under this section shall be made after January 1, 2027, for any
165.12 maintenance or child support order established before, on, or after January 1, 2027.

165.13 Sec. 9. **SOCIAL SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM MODERNIZATION.**

165.14 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must improve and modernize the
165.15 child welfare social services information system. Elements the commissioner must address
165.16 as part of the system modernization include but are not limited to:

165.17 (1) capabilities that support case intake, screening, assessments, and investigations;

165.18 (2) the capacity for local social services agencies to track various financial information,
165.19 including benefits received by counties on behalf of children in the child welfare system,
165.20 and fees received by counties from parents with children in out-of-home placements;

165.21 (3) access for the ombudspersons for families, the ombudsperson for American Indian
165.22 families, and the foster youth ombudsperson, on a case-by-case basis, to nonprivileged
165.23 information necessary for the discharge of the ombudsperson's duties, including specific
165.24 child protection case information, while protecting Tribal data sovereignty;

165.25 (4) comprehensive statewide data reports, including data on law enforcement involvement
165.26 in the child protection system;

165.27 (5) demographic information about children in the child welfare system, including race,
165.28 cultural and ethnic identity, disability status, and economic status;

165.29 (6) bidirectional data exchanges, as required by federal Comprehensive Child Welfare
165.30 Information System regulations; and

165.31 (7) data quality measures, as required by federal Comprehensive Child Welfare
165.32 Information System regulations.

166.1 (b) By March 15, 2026, the commissioner of children, youth, and families must provide
166.2 the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
166.3 over child welfare and state and local government with a plan and estimated timeline for
166.4 modernization of the social services information system in compliance with state law and
166.5 federal Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System requirements.

166.6 (c) By August 15, 2026, and by each January 15 and July 15 thereafter, the commissioner
166.7 must provide an update on the social services information system modernization efforts and
166.8 progress toward federal compliance required under this section to the chairs and ranking
166.9 minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child welfare and
166.10 state and local government. This paragraph expires upon the commissioner's report to the
166.11 chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
166.12 child welfare and state and local government that the modernization required under this
166.13 section has been substantially completed.

460.20 Sec. 5. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND**
460.21 **FAMILIES; CHILD WELFARE FISCAL ANALYSIS.**

460.22 Subdivision 1. **Child welfare fiscal analysis.** The commissioner of children, youth, and
460.23 families must contract with a third-party consultant selected according to subdivision 2 to
460.24 conduct a fiscal analysis to identify and make recommendations on how to best utilize all
460.25 available child welfare funding streams and federal resources for supporting children,
460.26 families, and county and Tribal child welfare service providers across Minnesota.

460.27 Subd. 2. **Fiscal analysis consultant selection.** The commissioner, with input from the
460.28 Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, community
460.29 nonprofits, community providers, and other child welfare system stakeholders, must select
460.30 an independent third-party consultant to conduct the fiscal analysis required under this
460.31 section. The consultant must have expertise in and experience with child welfare systems
460.32 and conducting fiscal analyses.

461.1 Subd. 3. **Child welfare fiscal analysis requirements.** When conducting the child welfare
461.2 fiscal analysis under this section, the third-party consultant must evaluate:

461.3 (1) financial systems in Minnesota's child welfare system and funding sources available
461.4 to the child welfare system; and

461.5 (2) state, county, and Tribal access to and use of funding or reimbursements for expenses
461.6 related to child welfare, including but not limited to legal representation, training, and
461.7 prevention services, under federal Title IV-E and Title IV-B, the federal Child Abuse
461.8 Prevention and Treatment Act, TANF, Medicaid, the federal Social Services Block Grant
461.9 Program, and other federal funds.

461.10 Subd. 4. **Stakeholder engagement.** The third-party consultant conducting the fiscal
461.11 analysis under this section must engage with community child welfare service providers;
461.12 state, county, and Tribal social services agencies; and other individuals or organizations
461.13 with expertise in child welfare services, as the consultant determines to be appropriate.

461.14 Subd. 5. **Report on fiscal analysis.** By June 30, 2027, the third-party consultant
461.15 conducting the child welfare fiscal analysis under this section must submit a report to the
461.16 commissioner of children, youth, and families and the chairs and ranking minority members
461.17 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over the child welfare system. The report
461.18 must include the findings from the fiscal analysis required in this section and
461.19 recommendations on:

461.20 (1) how to maximize the state's receipt and use of child welfare funding streams and
461.21 federal resources; and

461.22 (2) legislative proposals for any statutory or funding changes necessary to maximize the
461.23 state's receipt and use of child welfare funding streams and federal resources.

461.24 Subd. 6. **Tribal participation.** Each of Minnesota's 11 federally recognized Tribal
461.25 Nations may participate in the fiscal analysis required under this section. Tribal Nations

461.26 that choose to participate have sovereignty over data they choose to share with the consultant,
461.27 or other individuals or entities, and may request that their data not be included in any public
461.28 documents.

461.29 Sec. 6. **SCAN OF AND REPORT ON OUT-OF-SCHOOL AND YOUTH**
461.30 **PROGRAMMING.**

461.31 (a) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must conduct a scan of
461.32 out-of-school and youth programming for youth under 21 years of age. The scan may include
462.1 a review of existing reports, targeted interviews, surveys, and other methodologies, as
462.2 determined by the commissioner.

462.3 (b) When conducting the scan, the commissioner must collaborate with community
462.4 organizations and programming providers who provide out-of-school and youth
462.5 programming; parents, youth, and families who participate or have participated in
462.6 out-of-school and youth programming; and other individuals with expertise in out-of-school
462.7 and youth programming in order to:

462.8 (1) identify different avenues for gathering information; and

462.9 (2) collaborate in the outreach and facilitation of focused community engagement.

462.10 (c) By July 1, 2026, the commissioner must prepare and submit a final report to the
462.11 chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
462.12 children, youth, and families. The commissioner may contract with consultants to help with
462.13 the development of the report. The report must include:

462.14 (1) information on current federal, state, Tribal, county, and city out-of-school and youth
462.15 programs;

462.16 (2) school districts that offer enrichment activities;

462.17 (3) information on availability and amount of funding sources, the costs to provide the
462.18 out-of-school and youth programs, and the costs of the programs for families;

462.19 (4) any barriers and gaps for families to participate in the out-of-school and youth
462.20 programming, as identified by findings from the scan under paragraph (a) and in discussions
462.21 with community members and program providers;

462.22 (5) information on the populations participating in out-of-school and youth programming;

462.23 (6) differences in programming needs, opportunities, and accessibility between different
462.24 demographics and different regions of Minnesota; and

462.25 (7) recommendations on policy and funding needs, including recommending potential
462.26 partners for program delivery to expand access to quality out-of-school and youth
462.27 programming.

462.28 (d) By July 1, 2026, the commissioner must present the final report to the chairs and
462.29 ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over children,
462.30 youth, and families.