

## **S.F. No. 3297 – Legislative working group on special education tuition billing**

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**Section 1.** Legislative working group on special education tuition billing.

**Subdivision 1.** (a) establishes an 8-member working group consisting of:

- (1) Four members of the house of representatives, two appointed by the speaker of the house and two appointed by the house minority leader; and
  - (2) Four members of the senate, two appointed by the senate majority leader and two appointed by the senate minority leader.
- (b) Requires the appointments to be made by June 15, 2022.
- (c) Requires a vacancy to be filled by the appointing authority for the vacated position.
- (d) One working group member from each body must be designated as chair of the working group. Requires the chair to rotate after each meeting. The person appointed as chair by the speaker of the house must convene the first meeting by June 30, 2022.

**Subd. 2. Duties.** (a) Requires the working group to study requirements and practices related to tuition billing for special education and general education services provided to a student with a disability by a nonresident school district, cooperative, or charter school, including a charter school that serves a high percentage of students with individualized education programs (IEP). Billing costs considered by the group must include special education costs, general education costs, facility costs, and access fees charge by a cooperative to nonmember school districts. Requires the group to review data from the Department of Education on services billed to resident school districts, third-party billing data, and other relevant data provided by school districts, cooperatives, charter schools, and families of children with an IEP.

(b) Requires the working group to solicit input from the Department of Education including the School Finance Division, school districts, cooperatives, charter schools, special education school administrators, families of children with an IEP, and other interested stakeholders.

(c) Requires the working group to determine what statutory changes to special education billing are necessary to fund school districts, cooperatives, and charter schools adequately and equitably in meeting the needs of students with IEPs.

**Subd. 3. Assistance.** (a) Directs the Department of Education to provide the working group all available data necessary to analyze special education billing costs to school districts, including the effect of potential changes to special education billing requirements.

(b) Directs the Legislative Coordinating Commission to provide technical and administrative assistance to the working group upon request.

**Subd. 4. Recommendations; report.** Requires the group to issue a report to the governor and chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education by January 31, 2023.

**Subd. 5. Expiration.** The working group expires February 1, 2023.

Effective Date: The section is effective immediately.