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S.F. No. 4001 – Child welfare system fiscal analysis and practice model development (as proposed to be amended by the A-1 amendment)

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Bill Overview

S.F. 4001 directs a third-party independent consultant to conduct a fiscal analysis of the child welfare system in Minnesota and develop a practice model. The bill describes the qualifications required for the consultant, the selection of the consultant, and what the consultant is required to provide in their final report.

Section Summaries

Section 1 describes the fiscal analysis that must be conducted by the consultant, the selection process, and the final report, along with establishing a working group.

Subdivision 1 requires the commissioner of human services, by October 1, 2024, to contract with a third-party independent consultant selected pursuant to subdivision 2 to conduct a fiscal analysis of the child welfare system in Minnesota and to provide a comprehensive set of practice and programmatic recommendations. Also requires the consultant to sign a statement that the consultant does not receive any money from child welfare providers, counties, Tribal Nations, or the Departments of Health or Human Services.

Subdivision 2 requires the legislative task force on child protection, by September 1, 2024, in consultation with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, to select the consultant and provides qualifications the consultant needs to have.

Subdivision 3 describes what the consultant is required to evaluate when conducting the fiscal analysis.

Subdivision 4 requires the consultant to develop a comprehensive set of practice and programmatic recommendations and to develop a practice model for the child welfare system in Minnesota. Also provides what must be included in the practice model.

Subdivision 5 establishes a working group to support and advise the consultant during the fiscal analysis and details who is included in the working group. Also requires the consultant to meet regularly with the working group and requires the working group to help the consultant in obtaining data and information.

Subdivision 6 requires the consultant to submit a final report by June 30, 2026, that contains the fiscal analysis, the practice model, and recommendations on whether Minnesota should increase state investment into the child welfare system, along with any necessary statutory changes.

Section 2 appropriates \$500,000 to the commissioner of human services to contract with the consultant to perform the child welfare fiscal analysis and provide practice recommendations.