



S.F. No. 1786 – Modifying relative foster care licensing, training, and background study requirements (as proposed to be amended by the A-1 amendment)

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Bill Overview

S.F. No. 1786 modifies licensing, training, and background study requirements for child foster care providers who are individuals related to a child. It also adds definitions into the child care assistance program and background studies chapters, directs the commissioner of children, youth, and families to make written communications available in more languages and to create a condensed version of the child care licensing guidelines, and provides appropriations for the supporting relative caregiver grant program and for grants to purchase at-home or mobile fingerprinting devices.

Section Summaries

Section 1 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142B.01, subdivision 15; Individual who is related) amends the definition of “individual who is related” within the children, youth, and families licensing chapter to include an individual who is an important friend of the child or the child’s parent or custodian for the purposes of family child foster care.

Section 2 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142B.05, subdivision 3; Foster care by an individual who is related to a child; license required) allows an individual who is related to the child to obtain foster care licensure through a county agency or private agency licensed by the commissioner of children, youth, and families. Requires the commissioner to develop materials that advise foster care providers on certain topics. Provides who must be licensed within a household and that background studies must be conducted on household members according to section 245C.03, subdivision 1 (background study; individuals to be studied).

Section 3 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142B.47; Training on risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma for child foster care providers) allows licensed child foster care providers who are individuals related to the child to document completion of the training on reducing the risk of sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma within 30 days of licensure, rather than before they assist in the care of infants or children.

Section 4 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142B.51, subdivision 2; Child passenger restraint systems; training requirement) allows licensed child foster care providers who are individuals related to the child to document completion of the training on the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles within 30 days of licensure, rather than before they transport a child in a motor vehicle.

Section 5 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142B.870; Child foster care training requirement; mental health training; fetal alcohol spectrum disorders training) exempts child foster care license holders who are individuals related to the child from the requirement that one hour of training on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders must be included in annual training.

Section 6 (adds Minn. Stat. § 142B.81; Child foster care training; relative caregivers) requires a child foster care license holder who is an individual related to the child to complete a minimum of six hours of in-service training per year in specific areas.

Section 7 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142E.01, subdivision 14; Family) adds relative caregivers and their spouses to the definition of “family” within the child care assistance program chapter.

Section 8 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142E.01, subdivision 19; Legal nonlicensed child care provider) adds relative caregivers who are not a child’s parent, stepparent, or guardian to the definition of “legal nonlicensed child care provider” within the child care assistance program chapter.

Section 9 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142G.01, subdivision 8; Child-only TANF program) allows children, who live with a relative caregiver who does not have guardianship or custody of the child, to receive assistance from the child-only TANF program.

Section 10 (amends Minn. Stat. § 142G.40, subdivision 4; Exemption for certain families) prohibits any cash assistance received by an assistance unit during a month in which the caregiver is a relative caregiver to be counted toward the 60-month limit.

Section 11 (adds Minn. Stat. § 245C.02, subdivision 02; Relative) adds the definition of “relative” into the background studies chapter.

Section 12 (amends Minn. Stat. § 245C.03, subdivision 1; Programs licensed by the commissioner) requires the commissioner of human services, for child foster care provided by a relative of the child in a foster family setting, to conduct background studies only on individuals who are related to the child who are at least 18 years old living in the household where the child foster care will be provided and not receiving licensed services from the provider.

Section 13 (amends Minn. Stat. § 245C.08, subdivision 1; Background studies conducted by Department of Human Services) prohibits the commissioner of human services from requiring the submission of a copy of an individual’s consent or the consent form for the child abuse and neglect registry check related to a child foster family setting’s application for licensure, to a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of a child, or to an adoption.

Section 14 (adds Minn. Stat. § 245C.15, subdivision 7; Licensed relative family foster setting disqualifications) adds disqualifications specifically for licensed family foster settings when an individual is a relative of the child.

Paragraph (a) provides which offenses are a permanent disqualification for licensed family foster settings when an individual is a relative of the child.

Paragraph (b) provides additional situations that are a permanent disqualification.

Paragraph (c) provides which offenses are a disqualification for five years.

Paragraph (d) provides that a termination of parental rights is a seven-year disqualification.

Paragraph (e) provides additional situations that are a disqualification for five years.

Paragraph (f) states when a disqualification begins from.

Paragraph (g) provides that the aiding and abetting, attempt, or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses that are a permanent disqualification under paragraphs (a) and (b), is also a permanent disqualification. Provides that the aiding and abetting, attempt, or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses that are a five-year disqualification under paragraphs (c) and (e), is also a five-year disqualification.

Paragraph (h) provides that an individual's offense in any other state or country that is substantially similar to any offenses that are a permanent disqualification under paragraphs (a) and (b), is also a permanent disqualification. Provides that an individual's offense in any other state or country that is substantially similar to any offenses that are a five-year disqualification under paragraphs (c) and (e), is also a five-year disqualification.

Section 15 (Direction to the commissioner) requires the commissioner of children, youth, and families to make all written communications and materials available in the 20 most common languages spoken, and American Sign Language, in Minnesota to individuals who are related to a child and who are seeking to provide foster care.

Section 16 (Direction to the commissioner; condensed child foster care licensing guidelines) requires the commissioner of children, youth, and families to create a condensed version of the child foster care licensing guidelines for individuals providing foster care for a relative child by December 15, 2025.

Section 17 (Appropriation; supporting relative caregiver grants) contains a blank appropriation for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the commissioner of children, youth, and families for the supporting relative caregiver grant program.

Section 18 (Appropriation; county grants for fingerprinting devices) contains a blank, onetime appropriation for fiscal year 2026 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for grants to community licensing partners and to county and Tribal social services agencies to purchase at-home or mobile fingerprinting devices.



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