



# Commission ON THE Economic Status OF Women

Newsletter #220

Room 85 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**Summary of the 1997 legislative session**, featuring issues concerning women's health and economic status and selected children, youth and family issues.

Bills not signed by the governor as of this writing are indicated by their bill number. When signed by the governor, they appear as chapter numbers, indicated their place in the session laws for 1997.

## COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission will meet June 25 to review the 1997 session and to plan interim hearings. The meeting is 10 a.m., Room 300 South, State Office Building.

<b>STALKING</b>		
<b>Violation of an Order for Protection</b>	Expands the penalties for violation of an Order for Protection (OFP), making a second violation within 5 years a gross misdemeanor, and a third violation within 5 years a felony. A second violation while possessing a dangerous weapon also becomes a felony. A felony under this section requires a mandatory 30-day incarceration as a condition of probation as well as participation in counseling or other programs as ordered by the court.	Chap. 96
	Increases the penalties for certain violations of restraining orders.	
<b>Harassment and Stalking</b>	Makes harassment and stalking crimes for which mandatory minimum sentences must be served. Clarifies that the standard for harassment is intentional conduct which the actor "knows or has reason to know" would cause the victim to feel frightened, threatened, oppressed, persecuted or intimidated. Proof of specific intent will not be required.	
<b>DOMESTIC ABUSE</b>		
<b>Prohibiting Lease Restrictions on Domestic Abuse Emergency Calls</b>	Prohibits a landlord from barring or limiting a tenant's right to call for police or emergency assistance in response to domestic abuse or any other conduct. Prohibits local ordinances or rules which require eviction after a certain number of calls in response to domestic abuse or which provide that such calls can be used to charge a fee or penalty to a landlord. Allows local ordinances which penalize a landlord for conduct on the premises that constitutes a nuisance or other disorderly conduct.	Chap. 133
	Allows a tenant to bring a civil action for violation of this section and recover \$250 or actual damages. Gives the Attorney General the authority to investigate and prosecute violations.	
<b>Orders for Protection</b>	Allows a hearing to be held when an order for protection from another state is violated, if the petitioner and the respondent do not reside in the same state. Adds provisions that an OFP must contain: a notice that states it is enforceable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, tribal lands and U.S. territories; that violation of the order may also subject the respondent to federal charges and punishment under federal law (the Violence Against Women Act of 1994); and that pursuant to the federal Gun Control Act, the respondent may be prohibited from possessing, transporting or accepting a firearm. Clarifies that domestic abuse OFPs or orders issued under a similar law in another state are enforceable in this state in the same manner as OFPs in this state.	Chap. 239
<b>Family Visitation Centers</b>	Requires the Commissioner of Children, Families and Learning to develop standards to ensure the safety of custodial parents and children in family visitation centers. Requires Family Visitation Centers to have an individual knowledgeable about or experienced in providing services to battered women on its staff, its board or on a consultation basis.	Chap. 239
<b>Judicial Training on Domestic Abuse</b>	Requires the Supreme Court Judicial Education Program to include: 1) education on the impact of domestic abuse and domestic abuse allegations on children and 2) the importance of considering these impacts when making visitation and child custody decisions.	
<b>Petition for Marriage Dissolution</b>	Requires petitions for marriage dissolutions to state whether an OFP is in effect and, if so, the district court or other jurisdiction in which it was entered.	
<b>Supervised Visitation</b>	Requires judges or judicial officers to consider an OFP, if one is in effect, when a custodial parent requests supervised visitation in a marriage dissolution. Requires the state court administrator to develop standards to be met by persons responsible for supervising visitation. Allows either parent to challenge the appropriateness of an individual selected to supervise visitation.	
<b>Domestic Abuse Perpetrated by a Minor</b>	Establishes a pilot program in Hennepin County to allow petitions (similar to the current OFP petition) for an OFP alleging the existence of domestic abuse perpetrated by minors. Requires the availability of an alternative safe living arrangement proposed by the petitioning parent or guardian if a court excludes the minor from the parent's or guardian's home. The alternative living arrangement must be separate from the victim of domestic abuse and safe for the minor respondent.	

# WELFARE REFORM

The new welfare reform program, to be known as Minnesota Family Investment Plan-Statewide (MFIP-S) will go into effect January 1, 1998. Conversion of current Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) cases to MFIP-S will begin at that time and be completed by March 31, 1998. MFIP-S replaces AFDC and Family General Assistance (G.A.) for families with children and pregnant women.

<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Eligibility for MFIP-S is similar to eligibility for AFDC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There must be a minor child or pregnant woman in the assistance unit. There does not have to be an absent parent.</li> <li>2. The applicant must be a citizen of the United States, a qualified noncitizen as defined in the statute or a noncitizen who is otherwise residing lawfully in the United States.</li> <li>3. An applicant may have assets up to \$2,000 and a licensed vehicle with a market value of up to \$7,500. On-going recipients may have assets up to \$5,000. Other property limitations, such as exempting the homestead, are similar to those in the AFDC program.</li> <li>4. Legal immigrant families with minor children are eligible for MFIP-S. They will also receive assistance to replace the value of food stamps. Legal Immigrants are no longer eligible for federal food stamp benefits.</li> </ol>	Chap. 85
<b>Ineligibility</b>	<p>Persons are ineligible for MFIP-S if they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convicted of a drug offense after July 1, 1997, unless they submit to random drug testing and have their benefits paid directly to housing and utility services (vendor paid);</li> <li>2. Violating parole, probation or supervised release;</li> <li>3. Fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction of a felony; or</li> <li>4. Convicted of fraudulently misrepresenting residency in order to become eligible for assistance in two or more states. These persons are ineligible for 10 years.</li> </ol>	
<b>Residency</b>	<p>Applicants for MFIP-S must have resided in the state for at least 30 days before receiving any benefits. Then they will receive the benefits level in the state they came from for the next 11 months. Time spent in a shelter for battered women counts toward satisfying the 30-day residency requirements.</p> <p>Residency requirements can be waived by the county when an unusual hardship would result from a denial of assistance. Unusual hardship is defined as without alternative shelter or without available resources for food.</p> <p>Migrant workers who have worked in the state within the last 12 months and have earned at least \$1,000 in gross wages during that time are exempt from the 30-day residency requirement.</p>	
<b>Interstate Payment Standards</b>	<p>Families who have not resided in the state of Minnesota for 12 months immediately preceding their application for assistance will receive the lesser of the amount they would have received in the state of immediate prior residence or the amount calculated according to AFDC or MFIP-S standards. This lesser payment will continue until the family has resided in the state for 12 months.</p> <p>If a family has exhausted benefits in the state from which they came, the family will not be eligible for any benefits in Minnesota for 12 months.</p>	
<b>Pregnant or Parenting Minors</b>	<p>A parenting or pregnant minor must live with a parent, another adult relative or caregiver or in an adult supervised living arrangement unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*there is no appropriate adult who allows the minor to live with them;</li> <li>*the minor has lived apart for at least one year before the birth of the child; or</li> <li>*the physical or emotional health or safety of the minor parent would be jeopardized if they were in the same household with their parent, adult relatives or legal guardian and there is no adult supervised living situation available.</li> </ul> <p>The parent of a minor caregiver with a dependent child is financially responsible for that minor caregiver. The amount of support is based on a formula established in statute.</p> <p>Minor parents, or 18- or 19-year-old parents without a high school diploma or its equivalent must attend school unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* transportation or child care are not available;</li> <li>* the caregiver is ill or incapacitated; or</li> <li>* the caregiver is needed at home to care for a child under six, or an ill or incapacitated household member</li> </ul>	
<b>60-month Time Limit</b>	<p>Eligibility is limited to 60 months of assistance. This includes assistance received in another state. The 60 months does not apply to minor parents who are attending school and complying with their plan.</p>	

<b>Exemptions from the 60-month Time Limit</b>	Caregivers are exempt from the 60-month limit if they are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 60 years old or older;</li> <li>2. victims of domestic violence who are complying with a safety plan; or</li> <li>3. pregnant or parenting minors who are complying with an education or employment plan.</li> </ol>
<b>MFIP-S Payment Standard</b>	The monthly payment level for families who are eligible for cash assistance and food stamps will be combined into the amounts shown on the table below. It list the transitional standards for the number of eligible people. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 \$351</li> <li>2 \$609</li> <li>3 \$763</li> <li>4 \$903</li> <li>5 \$1025</li> <li>6 \$1165</li> </ol>
<b>Family Wage Level</b>	When a family begins working and receiving earned income, they will receive the family wage level standard, which is 110% of the transitional standard.
<b>Earned Income Disregard</b>	A 36 percent income disregard will be applied to gross earnings. This amount is subtracted from the family wage level. When family income reaches 120% of the poverty level the family will no longer be eligible for assistance.
<b>Orientation</b>	Each caregiver must receive a face-to-face orientation which will inform the caregiver of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* details of the MFIP-S program;</li> <li>* the rights, responsibilities and obligations of participants;</li> <li>* the various benefits and services available to participants in the program;</li> <li>* the eligibility of the caregiver for transition year child care and extended medical assistance when the caregiver loses eligibility due to increased earnings or child support; and</li> <li>* the caregiver's option to choose an employment and training provider.</li> </ul>
<b>Sanctions</b>	Failure to comply with MFIP-S requirements may result in a sanction. Ten days notice is given before a sanction becomes effective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* For the first occurrence of non-compliance, the grant is reduced by ten percent of the transitional standard.</li> <li>* For a second or subsequent occurrence, the participant's rent is vendor paid (paid directly to the landlord) and the remaining grant is reduced by 30 percent of the transitional standard.</li> <li>* During the second month of a sanction the participant's case file must be reviewed to determine if there is a needed pre-employment activity, the participant qualifies for a good cause exception or if the participant should be exempt.</li> </ul> A participant may also be subject to sanctions for refusal to cooperate with child support requirements. The sanctions may be applied at the same time.
<b>Diversionsary Assistance</b>	A family may be eligible for diversionsary assistance once every 36 months if they have resided in the state for at least 30 days and have had an unexpected occurrence or a temporary loss of income which would make them eligible for MFIP-S if the diversionsary assistance is not available, is not based on refusal to accept or keep employment, and the diversionsary assistance will resolve the emergency and divert them from MFIP-S. The maximum amount of the diversionsary assistance is equal to the amount of the transitional grant for four months.
<b>Employment and Training</b>	Every county must develop an employment and training services component. Participation in employment and training services is mandatory for all MFIP-S caregivers unless the care giver is exempt. For single parent cases, mandatory participation is required within six months of eligibility for cash assistance. For two-parent cases, participation is required immediately. An exempt care giver may volunteer for services. <p>During the first meeting with participants, job counselors must give an overview of employment and training services and stress the need for immediate employment, outline the job search resources, explain the requirements to comply with an employment plan and the consequences for failing to comply.</p>
<b>Initial Assessment</b>	The job counselor must assess the participant's ability to obtain and retain employment. If the job counselor determines that the participant possesses sufficient ability and is likely to succeed in obtaining suitable employment, the participant must conduct up to eight weeks of job search for at least 30 hours per week. The participant must accept suitable employment.

	<p>"Suitable employment" is employment which pays at least the minimum wage, meets health and safety standards and anti-discrimination laws and is within the participant's abilities.</p> <p>The job counselor may approve an education or training program and postpone the job search requirements if the participant has a proposal for an education program which can be completed within 12 months and is likely to lead to earnings which will meet or exceed the family wage level.</p> <p>Caregivers who were in MFIP or MFIP-R or STRIDE or ACCESS may continue in their employment plan for up to two years if they are making satisfactory progress.</p> <p>During the required job search period, the counselor or the participant may request a review of the job search plan and progress toward obtaining employment.</p>	
<b>Secondary Assessment</b>	<p>If a review is conducted, or after the eight weeks of job search, the job counselor must conduct a secondary assessment to evaluate the participant's skills and prior work experience, family circumstances, interests and abilities, need for pre-employment activities or educational services and the extent of barriers to employment.</p> <p>Based on the secondary assessment, an employment plan must be developed that includes specific activities tied to an employment goal and a plan for long-term self-sufficiency.</p>	
<b>Post-Secondary Education</b>	<p>Post-secondary education may be an approved work activity if it lasts 12 months or less, if there are suitable employment opportunities requiring this education, and the education or training will result in significantly higher wages than could be earned without the education or training.</p> <p>Education lasting 24 months may be approved on an exception basis if the participant can meet the requirements for admission and the criteria for the 12 months training are also met. The participant must agree to repay the employment and training funds paid by the county for any month after 12 months of training. The participant must maintain satisfactory progress in order to continue in a post-secondary education or training program.</p> <p>A participant may not be approved for more than 24 months of training.</p>	
<b>Deferral from Employment and Training Requirements</b>	<p>A victim of domestic abuse who develops a safety plan is deferred from the employment and training and job search requirements for three months. The deferral may be renewed for up to one year as long as the participant is still complying with the plan and is still at risk.</p>	
<b>Exemptions from Employment and Training Requirements</b>	<p>Caregivers are exempt from the employment and training requirement if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 60 years old or older;</li> <li>* ill, injured or incapacitated;</li> <li>* caring for an ill household member;</li> <li>* pregnant women whose pregnancy incapacitates them;</li> <li>* caregivers of a child under one (these caregivers must enroll in an early childhood and family education or parenting class, if available); or</li> <li>* individuals who are already working 40 hours a week, or 30 hours a week and searching for a job for 10 hours per week.</li> </ul>	
<b>Notice and Referral for Victims of Domestic Abuse</b>	<p>All applicants and recipients must be notified that referral for counseling and supportive services are available; that they are exempt from the 60-month time limit while they are complying with an approved safety plan; and that non-permanent resident battered individuals married to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident may be eligible to petition for permanent residency under the Violence Against Women Act.</p>	
<b>Legal Immigrants</b>	<p>Legal immigrants who have lost eligibility for Social Security Income (SSI) and Food Stamps will be eligible for a grant of \$203 per month and an additional grant of \$87 (the equivalent value of food stamps no longer available to legal immigrants).</p>	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		
<b>Grants to Help Public Assistance Recipients with Transportation Needs</b>	<p>Appropriates \$925,000 to the Department of Transportation for grants to non-metro counties and to eligible recipients of public transit subsidies to facilitate the transition between public assistance and employment. Requires grant recipients to seek federal or private sector funding to transport economically disadvantaged persons to jobs and employment-related activities including child care facilities.</p> <p>Appropriates \$2 million to Metropolitan Council Transit for grants to metro counties for the same purpose.</p>	SF 1881

<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>Job Training</b>	Appropriates \$15.3 million to the Job Skills Partnership for customized training agreements between training programs and employers.	Chap. 200
<b>Grants to Schools for Education and Training of Public Assistance Recipients</b>	Appropriates \$3.5 million for education and training programs that serve public assistance recipients transitioning from assistance to employment. Projects must include workforce centers, state colleges and universities, other institutions and private enterprise.	Chap. 200
<b>Microenterprise Businesses</b>	Appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Trade and Economic Development for grants to microenterprise programs to provide technical assistance to very small businesses. Organizations that serve non-traditional entrepreneurs such as women, members of a minority, low income individuals or persons who are currently on or recently removed from welfare assistance will be given preference. The department must develop a plan to help small businesses to gain electronic access to Internet.	Chap. 200
<b>Small Business Assistance for Low-income People</b>	Appropriates \$505,000 to WomenVenture to help low income women start small businesses and to improve their work opportunities and to expand statewide.	Chap. 200
<b>Displaced Homemakers</b>	Appropriates \$3.6 million to Displaced Homemaker programs. An additional \$250,000 in 1998 will establish "empowerment groups" of individuals who are looking for or have obtained jobs, including those in welfare to work programs trying to attain self sufficiency.	Chap. 200
<b>Welfare Reform Impact Reports</b>	Requires the state's Commissioner of Finance to report by January 20, 1998, on potential budget impacts of welfare reform on each state department and agency. Requires a report by January 20, 1999, on programs enacted to address welfare-to-work requirements of welfare reform, including evaluation of rates of job placement and retention. Requires the commissioner to solicit input from the public about the budgetary impacts.	Chap. 200
<b>Family Stabilization</b>	Appropriates \$5.5 million for rent assistance for family stabilization to help families are on public assistance, have a child and are working.	Chap. 200
<b>Sister-to-Sister</b>	Appropriates \$500,000 to expand the "Sister-to-Sister" mentoring, support and training network in Ramsey County for public assistance recipients.	Chap. 200
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT</b>		
<b>Commission on the Economic Status of Women</b>	Authorizes the biennial budget for the Commission.	Chap. 203
<b>Coya Knutson Memorial</b>	Appropriates \$25,000 for predesign of a memorial to Coya Knutson, former U.S. Congresswoman from Minnesota.	<b>Vetoed</b>
<b>Women's Suffrage Garden</b>	Appropriates \$100,000 to complete the women's suffrage garden on the Capitol grounds.	<b>Vetoed</b>
<b>Winter Sports Programs for Females</b>	Appropriates \$50,000 to Minnesota's U.S. Olympic Committee to develop winter sports programs for females ages 13-18.	Chap. 203
<b>Small Business Procurement</b>	Creates a small business and targeted group procurement advisory council.	Chap. 203
<b>CRIME PREVENTION</b>		
<b>Legal Services to Low-Income Clients</b>	Appropriates \$11.2 million for legal services to low income clients and for family farm legal assistance.	Chap. 239
	Appropriates \$1.75 million for legal representation of low income clients in family law matters.	Chap. 239
<b>Family Violence Coordinating Council</b>	Appropriates \$75,000 for a family violence coordinating council in the Fourth Judicial District.	Chap. 239
<b>Women in Prostitution</b>	Appropriates \$50,000 for grants to organizations or local units of government providing support services to women leaving systems of prostitution. Requires a funding match.	Chap. 239
<b>Battered Women's Shelters</b>	Appropriates \$103,000 for a battered women's shelter in Washington County and \$104,000 for a battered women's shelter in Goodhue County.	Chap. 239
<b>Battered Women, Sexual Assault and Crime Victim Programs</b>	Requires the state's Commissioner of Corrections and Public Safety to develop a comprehensive, coordinated plan for funding statewide services for battered women, sexual assault and general crime victims.	Chap. 239

<b>Marriage Dissolution</b>	Clarifies that spouses are not liable to creditors for the debts of the other spouse but that in a marriage dissolution the court may apportion debts between the spouses. Also clarifies that either spouse may close a joint credit card account or other line of credit by giving written notice to the creditor.	SF 830
<b>Cooperation for the Children</b>	Requires the state court to establish a 24-month pilot program in at least two counties to promote parental relationships with children for cases with visitation as the sole issue in conflict will be involved.	SF 830
<b>Data Match System</b>	Establishes a process for comparing account information held by financial institutions with the database of child support obligors. The financial institutions are required to provide quarterly information to the child support enforcement office on each obligor who maintains an account.	Chap. 203
<b>Publication of Child Support Obligor Names</b>	Requires the Social Security numbers of the petitioner and respondent in a marriage dissolution petition when there will be child support or maintenance. Child support orders must contain the social security numbers. An application for a marriage license shall also include the parties Social Security numbers but the numbers will not appear on the marriage license.	
	Requires families receiving child care Basic Sliding Fee program to assign to the state all right to child care support from any other person. The assignment is effective for current child care and any child care arrears. The recipient of the child care subsidy must cooperate with the child support agency in establishing paternity, child support, modification of a child support order, or enforcement of an existing order.	
	The state's Commissioner of Human Services is required to establish domestic violence and sexual abuse training programs for child support agency employees.	
	The child support agency may not release information on the location of one party to the other party, if the agency knows that there is a protective order or has reason to believe that release of the information may result in physical or emotional harm to the other party.	
	The definition of income for child support purposes is expanded to include non-periodic distributions of workers compensation claims payments, reemployment claims, personal injury recoveries for lost wages or salary, severance pay and bonuses.	
	Allows suspension of occupational and drivers licenses for failure to comply with an approve payment agreement and failure to comply with a subpoena relating to a paternity or child support proceeding.	
	Makes income withholding easier to establish without waiting for a child support arrearage to occur. Requires that every child support order address income withholding.	
	If income withholding is not effective because of the obligor's method of obtaining income, the court can order the obligor to establish or identify a child support deposit account in a financial institution for the purpose of depositing court-ordered child support payments. The court shall order the obligor to execute an agreement for pre-authorized transfers from the child support account to the child support agency.	
	Expands the authority of child support officers in the administrative process.	
	Allows publication once a year of names, photos or other identifying information of no more than 25 individuals who are obligors who are at least \$10,000 in arrears, are not in compliance with a written payment plan, cannot currently be located and have not made a support payment, except tax intercept payments, in the preceding 12 months.. The names cannot be published without the written consent of the obligee.	
<b>CHILD WELFARE</b>		
<b>Child Welfare Pilots</b>	The Commissioner of Human Services will encourage and authorize alternative local child welfare reform projects.	Chap. 203
<b>Child Welfare Prevention/Early Intervention Reform</b>	Appropriates \$2 million for the biennium.	
<b>Family Preservation Fund</b>	Appropriates \$17.7 million for family preservation.	
<b>Legal Services for Child Protection</b>	Appropriates \$120,000 for grants for legal counsel, guardians ad litem and other child welfare services and \$180,000 for training and materials.	

**HEALTH**

<b>Alcohol Use by Pregnant Women</b>	Requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to study and recommend legislation that will: decrease the sale to and consumption of alcoholic beverages by pregnant women; reduce the occurrence of fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol exposure; encourage responsible alcoholic beverage sales and service to pregnant women; and heighten awareness of the importance of responsible use of alcohol by pregnant women.	Chap. 239
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**CHILD SUPPORT**

<b>Liens on Motor Vehicles for Enforcement of Child Support</b>	Allows liens to be filed only if the value of the motor vehicle exceeds the exemption allowed in the statute.	SF 830
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<b>Child Support Enforcement and Administrative Process</b>	<p>Allows the suspension of collection of arrears if an obligor has reunited with the family and lives in the same household with the child. The agency may suspend collections as long as the obligor continues to live with the child if the total household income is less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level.</p> <p>In establishing support if a court is unable to determine the earning ability of a parent, the medical support or child care contribution must be determined using 40 hours per week at 150 percent of the minimum wage. Income from self-employment is defined as gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses. This means net income may be different from taxable income.</p> <p>A support order may provide that during any period of 30 days or longer that the child resides with the non-custodial parent, the amount of support otherwise due may be reduced.</p> <p>Minor parents and parents enrolled in secondary schools are not required to pay the \$25 application fee for child support and collection services.</p> <p>Makes clear that the administrative process for child support enforcement is not available in cases where there is no assignment of support or in which the child support enforcement agency is not providing services.</p> <p>Requires the state's child support office to provide a case reviewer for obligors and obligees. The case reviewer will be available to answer questions concerning the collection process and to review collection activity, and to make recommendations to the state and the applicable county regarding a collection action which the reviewer considers to be unreasonable or unfair.</p> <p>Allows collection remedies to be used if the children are emancipated and the obligor owes past support or has accumulated arrearage.</p> <p>Allows a modification of support if the medical support provisions are not enforceable or the health coverage ordered is not available to the child.</p> <p>Allows retroactive modification if the order was originally entered by default and the party shows good cause for not appearing. Also allows retroactive modification if the party seeking modification was a recipient of SSI, OASKI or other disability benefits or public assistance during the period when the retroactive modification is sought.</p>	SF 830
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<b>Visitation</b>	<p>Requires each judicial district to have at least one parent education program on the impact of divorce. Children may be required to attend a separate education program.</p> <p>Requires the Minnesota Supreme Court to set minimum standards for parent education programs. Parents of a minor child may be required to attend an orientation and education program. If there is past or present domestic abuse, the court shall not require the parties to attend but shall include an order describing how parties may safely participate in a program. The court may sanction parents for failure to attend or complete a parent education program.</p> <p>Requires the court to make findings if it does not grant a request for compensatory visitation when there has been a denial of court ordered visitation. Also the court may award attorneys fees or require the party who violated the visitation order to reimburse the other party for costs incurred as a result of the violation of the order or agreement.</p> <p>Clarifies the purpose of the visitation expeditor and when the visitation expeditor is to be used. Requires a visitation expeditor to complete 40 hours of family mediation training, including certified training in domestic abuse issues.</p> <p>Gives notice to parties in a marriage dissolution that reasonable visitation guidelines are available from the court administrator.</p>	SF 830
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<b>JUVENILE JUSTICE</b>		
<b>Gang Research and Intervention</b>	Appropriates \$50,000 to community based programs to research gangs and develop prevention techniques. Another \$200,000 will fund a gang intervention pilot program. A criminal gang strike force and a computer data base of gang activity will be created.	Chap. 239
<b>Female Juvenile Offenders</b>	Appropriates \$330,000 for housing and programs for female juvenile offenders.	Chap. 239
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD</b>		
<b>Early Childhood Family Education</b>	Appropriates \$29.7 million to Community Based education for children from birth to kindergarten and their parents. \$100,000 of this appropriation must go for pilot technology grants.	Chap. 162
<b>Learning Readiness</b>	Appropriates \$20.7 million for early childhood program for a continuum of services including child development, health referral, nutrition, and parent involvement.	
<b>Head Start</b>	Appropriates \$37.5 million for Headstart programs. \$1 million of this must be used for new full-year programs for children age 0 to 3.	
<b>Children with Disabilities</b>	Appropriates \$400,00 for interagency services to young children from birth to age 2 with disabilities.	
<b>Way to Grow</b>	Appropriates \$950,000 to promote child development and school readiness for children pre-birth to age 6 in the Way to Grow program.	
<b>Early Childhood Screening</b>	Appropriates \$3.1 million to improve the health of young children through early detection of health, developmental, and family factors which may interfere with child growth and development.	
<b>Early Childhood Infant Development Grants</b>	Appropriates \$2 million to early childhood family education programs for families with infants.	
<b>PREVENTION PROGRAMS</b>		
<b>Abused Children Program</b>	Appropriates \$2.1 million for the biennium for services to victims of child abuse and their families.	Chap. 203
<b>Children's Trust Fund</b>	Funds to community-based groups to prevent child abuse through education, information, and child abuse prevention councils.	
<b>Drug Policy and Violence Prevention</b>	Appropriates \$6 million for drug policy, violence prevention, and family visitation programs, \$800,000 of which must be used for mentoring at risk youth.	
<b>After-School Enrichment</b>	Appropriates \$9.8 million to community collaboratives to reduce juvenile crime, school suspensions and drop-outs, and increase student achievement, attendance, and community involvement.	
<b>Extended Day Programs for Children with Disabilities</b>	Appropriates \$651,000 for after-school programs for children with disabilities or to children experiencing temporary family problems.	
<b>Male Responsibility</b>	Appropriates \$500,000 for youth and parenting programs to educate males ages 10-21 on parenting responsibilities.	
<b>Violence Prevention Grants</b>	Appropriates \$3 million for violence prevention education grants to school districts to develop programs for K-12 students. Programs include conflict resolution, peer mediation, parent education, theater, counseling and restorative measures.	Chap. 162
<b>Adolescent Parenting Grants</b>	Appropriates \$800,000 to school-based, comprehensive programs to ensure self-sufficiency for adolescent families and school readiness for their children.	Chap. 203
<b>Crisis Nurseries</b>	Appropriates \$800,000 to crisis nurseries where children can stay up to 72 hours when their parents are in crisis.	
<b>Universal Voluntary Home Visiting</b>	Appropriates \$1 million to create a voluntary universal pilot home visiting project to offer services to all families with newborns in two geographic areas.	
<b>Targeted Home Visiting Program</b>	Appropriates \$405,000 for nine home visiting programs to high risk families.	
<b>Juvenile Assessment Centers</b>	Funds grants for the Department of Health to three judicial districts to develop juvenile centers to assess children who are accused of committing delinquent acts or are victims of abuse.	
<b>CHILD CARE</b>		
<b>Child Care Licensing-Fire Marshall</b>	Appropriates \$200,000 to improve licensing requests in child care programs. Two state fire marshals will be assigned.	Chap. 162
<b>Basic Sliding Fee</b>	Appropriates \$92.5 million to the Basic Sliding Fee child care subsidy program, which helps low- to moderate income families pay for their child care costs while working or in school.	
<b>MFIP-S Child Care</b>	Appropriates \$99.2 million for child care assistance to families who are on public assistance and participating in a work or training program as required by MFIP-S. This funding is also used for one year of transition year child care for recipients who have left AFDC.	

<b>At-Home Infant Care Program</b>	Establishes, within the Basic Sliding Fee child care program, an At-Home Infant Care program that will allow families who otherwise qualify for the Basic Sliding Fee to use their subsidy while staying home with their infant child. The family will receive 75 percent of what they would have received in their child was in child care, based on the average cost of family child care in that community. Assistance is only available for 12 months and the child must be below age 1. The program begins July 1, 19	
<b>Child Care Program Development</b>	Appropriates \$7.7 million for child care service development. Of this, \$2 million will fund programs that expand training, apprentice and mentorship opportunities for child care providers and programs to assist providers who are persons of color. The appropriation will also be used for child care Resource & Referral programs throughout the state, including an educational loan Up to 5 percent of the \$7.7 million can be used for a non-profit corporation which will set up a child care facilities loan  program for students in child care training for a maximum of \$1,500 per loan. The loan may be forgiven if the student provides child care services for 1 year following completion of the course.	
<b>Portable Basic Sliding Fee</b>	Ensures that families who are receiving Basic Sliding Fee assistance can continue that assistance if they move to another county where there us a waiting list for Basic Sliding Fee.	
<b>Co-Pays</b>	Begins a child care subsidy co-pay for all families receiving child care assistance, including families receiving public assistance. Any family earning between 75 and 100 percent of the poverty level, must have a co-pay of \$5 per moth. Co-pay cannot go down when another child is added to the family. The co-pay is based on a percentage of family income.	
<b>Application Methods</b>	Requires each county to have at least two methods of applying for Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance.	
	Allows families receiving Basic Sliding Fee assistance to receive the assistance while obtaining a post-secondary education and allows that assistance as long as the family is eligible and has not received an associate or baccalaureate degree.	
<b>COMMUNITY PROGRAMS</b>		
<b>Family Services Collaboratives</b>	Appropriates \$15 million for family service collaboratives and requires a collaborative to include at least one school district, one public health organization, one county, and one community action program or Head Start program in addition to representation by broad community organizations . Collaboratives deliver comprehensive services to children and families in their local communities.	Chap. 203
<b>Children's Mental Health Collaboratives</b>	Expands the partners in a collaborative to include: parent, consumer, civic, religious, and non-profit organizations, foundations, businesses and by July 1, 1988, one juvenile justice or corrections agency must be involved.	
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>		
<b>Direct Patient Access to Obstetric &amp; Gynecological Services</b>	Requires Health Plan companies to allow female enrollees direct access to obstetricians & gynecologists for: maternity care; annual preventative health examinations including gynecological exams & any subsequent gynecological visits & evaluation & necessary treatment for acute gynecological conditions or emergencies.	
<b>Children's Mental Health</b>	Appropriates \$1.4 million for grants to counties for children's mental health services.	Chap. 26
<b>WIC-Women, Infants, and Children Food Program</b>	Food supplement program for women, infants, and children. \$2.15 million for the biennium.	Chap. 203
<b>Health Care for Disabled Children Ineligible for SSI</b>	If children are eligible for SSI as of 6-30-97 and become ineligible due to federal law changes and are not eligible for MNCARE, they will be eligible for MN services for children with special health care needs for the fiscal year ending 6-30-98, until medical assistance is reestablished.	Chap. 203
<b>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome</b>	To prevent and reduce harm from fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect. \$1.25 million for the biennium. Health workers who have primary responsibility for diagnosing and treating FAS and FAE will receive education on screening, identification and referral.	Chap. 203
<b>Programs for Nurses of Color</b>	Appropriates \$250,000 each year of the biennium for grants to nursing programs to recruit persons of color and to provide grants to nursing students who are persons of color.	
<b>Infant Child Care Programs</b>	Appropriates \$150,000 in the first year of the biennium to establish pilot programs at one community college, one technical college and one consolidated community technical college to expand child care offerings on campus to include infant care.	
<b>U of M Women's Ice Sheet and Tennis Facility</b>	Appropriates \$3 million for a women's ice sheet and tennis facility at the University of Minnesota.	