



OFFICE ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

## *Minnesota Legislative Session Summary 2006*

*A report highlighting and summarizing selected legislative changes related to the economic status of women*

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### Report Notes

- Funding in this summary is supplemental to existing program funding or new funding as indicated.
- With the exception of those otherwise noted, individual provisions in this summary can be found in the chapters/bills indicated in the section banners.
- The policy changes included in this summary have various effective dates and related funding changes. Please see the individual bills and omnibus bill fiscal tracking sheets for additional information.
- Fiscal tracking sheets are available on the Minnesota House and Senate websites at:  
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/tracking.htm>  
<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/fiscalpol/tracking/2006/index.shtml>
- For definitions of abbreviations used in this report, see the abbreviations section on page 13.

## BONDING

CHAPTER 258 – H.F. 2959

### Early Childhood Learning and Child Protection Facilities

- \$500,000 for grants to rehabilitate facilities of specified eligible programs. Grants may not exceed \$75,000 per program and \$200,000 per facility. Eligible facilities include those housing early childhood programs, crisis nurseries, parenting time centers, Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and other early childhood intervention programs.

### Supportive Housing for Long-Term Homeless

- \$17,500,000 for loans and grants for publicly owned permanent rental housing for those experiencing or at significant risk for long-term homelessness (defined as without a permanent residence for at least 12 months or on at least four occasions in the last three years). Stipulates the housing must provide or coordinate with linkages to services necessary for residents to maintain housing stability and maximize opportunities for education and employment.

### Transitional Housing

- \$2,000,000 for loans and grants for publicly owned temporary or transitional housing.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

CHAPTER 282 – H.F. 4162

### Adult Basic Education (ABE)

*Program description: Provides education opportunities for adults who lack basic academic skills and whose low educational levels are barriers to employment and productive participation in their families and in society. Adults are eligible to participate when they are at least 16 years old, are not enrolled in school and function below the high school completion level in basic skills.*

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$35,000	\$1,025,000	\$1,060,000

### Adult Literacy Grants for Recent Immigrants

- Establishes an adult literacy grant program to meet the English language needs of recent unanticipated refugees and immigrants to Minnesota. Specifies the grants shall be awarded to organizations providing adult literacy services in order to help offset the additional costs due to unanticipated high enrollment of recent refugees and immigrants.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000

*Note: The base funding for this program is \$1,250,000 in FY 2008 and \$0 in FY 2009.*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION – CONTINUED

CHAPTER 282 – H.F. 4162

### Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

*Program description: Provides early childhood education, parent-child learning opportunities and parent education that enhances the ability of parents to provide for their children's optimal learning and development. All Minnesota families with children ages birth to kindergarten are eligible for ECFE.*

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$0	\$2,680,000	\$2,680,000

*Note: Funding reflects an ECFE formula increase.*

### Educate Parents Partnership

- Allows the Commissioner of Education to work in partnership with health care providers and community organizations to coordinate and provide information to parents of newborns at the time of birth including information from early childhood organizations. Also allows a Department of Education resource website to be developed that promotes information and links to resources on child development, parent education, child care and consumer safety information.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000

*Note: Base funding for this program in FY 2008 and later is \$50,000.*

### Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

- Allows the Commissioner of Education to implement a kindergarten readiness assessment that is representative of incoming kindergartners.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$0	\$287,000	\$287,000

*Note: The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment was not funded in FY 2006 but received funding in previous years.*

### NorthStar Quality Improvement and Rating System (QIRS)

**VETO NOTE: The NorthStar QIRS was vetoed by the Governor.**

Funding to the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) to implement the NorthStar QIRS which was to:

- Provide consumer information for parents on child care and early education program quality and ratings;
- Set indicators to identify quality in care and early education settings;
- Provide funds for provider improvement grants and quality achievement grants;
- Require participating providers to incorporate the state's early learning standards in their curriculum activities and develop appropriate child assessments aligned with the kindergarten readiness assessment;
- Provide accountability for the NorthStar QIRS's effectiveness in improving child outcomes and kindergarten readiness; and
- Align current and new state investments to improve the quality of care by providing accountability and informed parent choice.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

*Note: The NorthStar QIRS was vetoed by the Governor.*

**CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)**

*Program description: CCAP includes the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Transition Year (TY) and Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care assistance programs which subsidize the child care expenses of low-income families based on a sliding fee of family co-payments for authorized work, education and job search activities.*

**Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) Child Care Assistance Grants**

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$0	\$3,842,000	\$3,842,000

*Note: Funding is targeted to reduce the BSF child care assistance waiting list.*

**Child Care Provider Reimbursement Rates**

- **Maximum provider reimbursement rate for child care assistance** - Increases the maximum rate by six percent based on the maximum rates effective January 1, 2006, for like-care arrangements in the county or multi-county region.
- **Provider rate differential for accreditation** - Allows family child care providers, child care centers and Montessori programs to be paid a 15 percent differential rate above the maximum rate if the provider or center holds the specified credentials or accreditation. (Note: The provider rate differential for accreditation was 10 percent before it was eliminated in the 2004 legislative session.)

**Absent Day Policy**

Clarifies the absent day policy which limits the number of absent days for which a provider may be reimbursed to 25 full-days per child or 10 consecutive full-day absent days in a fiscal year. An exception is provided for children with documented medical conditions that causes more frequent absences.

**OTHER CHILD CARE POLICY CHANGES**

**Funding Priorities for Families on the Waiting List for BSF Child Care Assistance**

Chapter 264 – S.F. 2833

Adds a new fourth priority category for families on the waiting list to receive BSF child care assistance and specifies the fourth priority must be given to families in which at least one parent is a veteran.

**Child Care Assistance Parent Fees**

Chapter 191 – S.F. 3615

Allows the required parent fee portion for child care assistance to be paid by a source other than the family, without affecting the family's eligibility for child care assistance. Also allows that the fee paid be excluded from the family's income. Requires that child care providers who accept third-party payment maintain family specific documentation of the payment source, amount and time period covered by the payment.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION – CONTINUED

### OTHER CHILD CARE POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED

#### Training for Family and Group Family Child Care Providers

- **In-service training** - Increases the amount of in-service training the license holder and each primary caregiver must complete in family or group family child care from six to eight hours each year. [Chapter 264 – S.F. 2833]
- **Early childhood development training** - Requires the license holder and each adult caregiver (with some exceptions) to complete and document at least two hours of early childhood development training within the first year of employment. [Chapter 264 – S.F. 2833]
- **First aid and CPR training** - Exempts family child care providers from first aid and CPR requirements for substitutes who work less than 30 hours per year. Allows video training to be used to meet training requirements for first aid and CPR. [Chapter 207 – S.F. 2883]

#### Training for Child Care Center Staff

- **Early childhood development training** - Requires child care center directors and staff hired after July 1, 2006, (with some exceptions) to complete and document at least two hours of early childhood development training within the first year of employment. [Chapter 264 – S.F. 2833]
- **First aid training** - Requires all teachers and assistant teachers, and at least one staff person during field trips and when transporting children in care, to satisfactorily complete first aid training within 90 days of the start of work, unless the training has been completed within the previous three years. Specifies the training must be: repeated every three years, documented in the person's personnel record and indicated on the center's staffing chart. Requires the training be provided by an approved first aid instructor and allows the training to be less than eight hours. [Chapter 264 – S.F. 2833]
- **Child passenger restraint systems training** - Exempts child care providers that only transport school age children in school buses from training in the proper use and installation of child restraint systems in motor vehicles. [Chapter 254 – S.F. 3087]

#### Child Care Licensing Provisions

- **Modifying child care licensing provisions for special family day care homes** - Allows a nonprofit agency that provides child care in a dwelling located on a residential lot to be included as a special family day care home. Creates a capacity variance for specified programs to exceed the licensed capacity of 14 children by no more than five children during transition periods related to the work schedules of parents if the license holder meets specified requirements.. [Chapter 207– S.F. 2883]
- **Exemption for family child care license holders to provide notification of a set-aside or variance** - Provides an exemption to provide written notification of a set-aside or variance to parents of a child that is enrolled or considering enrollment when the subject of the variance or set-aside is a household member under the age of 18 years and the disqualification is for a misdemeanor level theft crime (e.g., shoplifting). [Chapter 264 – S.F. 283]

#### Ramsey County Child Care Project

Chapter 264 – S.F. 2833

Authorizes a pilot project in Ramsey County that will help teen parents remain in school and complete the parent's education while providing child care assistance for the student's child. Specifies the project should increase coordination between the MFIP, CCAP, and area public schools with the goal of removing barriers that prevent teen parents from pursuing educational goals. States the project shall:

- Provide a streamlined process for sharing information between MFIP, CCAP and public schools in Ramsey County;
- Determine eligibility for CCAP using the teen parent's eligibility for reduced-cost or free school lunches in place of income verification; and
- Waive the child care parent fee for teen parents whose income is below poverty level and whose children attend school-based child care centers.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 282 – H.F. 4162

### Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020

- Creates the Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020. Specifies the Commission's membership which includes nine members each from the House and from the Senate (with four members of each body from the minority party) and allows two additional nonvoting members to be appointed by the governor. States the principles the Commission must be guided by in preparing its recommendations on how to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020 and requires a report to the Legislature on its recommendations by December 15, 2008. Specifies the Commission expires December 31, 2008.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000

### 100 Hard Hats Program Grant

- Grant to Summit Academy Opportunity Industrialization Center (OIC) to place 100 women and people of color in construction trades jobs that pay a living wage. Students in the program begin with 10 weeks (300 hours) of construction training and then pursue specialized plumbing, electrician, construction or painting tracks.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000

*Note: This is a one-time appropriation.*

### Summer Youth Employment

- Grants to fund up to 500 summer jobs for youth in Minneapolis.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,500,000

*Note: \$250,000 each year is for a grant to the learn-to-earn summer youth employment program, a program that provides summer employment, academic enrichment and recreational opportunities to unemployed or underemployed youth in Minneapolis.*

### Youthbuild

*Program description: Program provides at-risk youth (including teen parents) with specialized training in the construction and building trades, leadership, basic academic skills and construction-based work experience to build affordable housing.*

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000

*Note: The base for this appropriation is \$75,000 in FY 2008 and after.*

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## OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY CHANGES

### Unpaid Leave for Immediate Family Members of Injured and Deceased Military Personnel

Chapter 273 – H.F. 3664

Requires an employer to grant up to ten working days of leave without pay to an employee whose immediate family member, as a member of the United States armed forces, has been injured or killed while engaged in active service. Stipulates that an employee must give as much notice to the employer of the intent to take a leave as practicable. Allows the leave to be reduced by any period of paid leave provided by the employer and stipulates that nothing in this section of law prevents an employer from providing additional leave benefits. Defines "immediate family member" as a person's parent, child, grandparent, sibling or spouse.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - CONTINUED

### OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED

#### Unpaid Leave for Immediate Family Members of Military Personnel to Attend Military Ceremonies

Chapter 273 – H.F. 3664

Requires an employer to grant a leave of absence without pay to an employee whose immediate family member, as a member of the United States armed forces, has been ordered into active service in support of a war or other national emergency unless to do so would unduly disrupt the operations of the employer. Allows the employer to limit the amount of leave to the actual time necessary for the employee to attend a send-off or homecoming ceremony for the mobilized service member, not to exceed one day's duration in any calendar year. Defines "immediate family member" as a person's grandparent, parent, legal guardian, sibling, child, grandchild, spouse, fiancé or fiancée.

## FAMILY LAW

CHAPTER 280 – S.F. 3199

### CHILD SUPPORT POLICY CHANGES

Note: This act is effective January 1, 2007, except where otherwise indicated in the act. The provisions in this act apply to all support orders in effect prior to January 1, 2007, except that the provisions used to calculate parties' support obligations apply to actions or motions filed after January 1, 2007.

#### Computation of Child Support Obligations

Clarifies how the court is to determine the child support obligation of a parent.

- Establishes methods for determining potential income in cases where parent is voluntarily unemployed, underemployed, employed less than full-time, a recipient of a temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) cash grant, a caretaker to a child who is subject to the child support order or a self-employed parent under certain economic conditions.
- Requires that cases involving the establishment or modification of a child support order include the gross income of the parties and provides additional direction in the calculation of gross income including income and expenses derived from self-employment. Stipulates gross income does not include public assistance benefits based on need.
- Clarifies how social security or veterans' benefits that are provided for a joint child affect the calculation of gross income of the parent on whose eligibility the benefits are based.
- Clarifies when and how a deduction from income is allowed in the case where a parent is legally responsible for a nonjoint child.
- Provides for a minimum support amount when an obligor does not have the ability to pay child support. Exempts incarcerated obligors from payment of minimum support amount.
- Amends the basic support guidelines based on a required report by Policy Studies, Inc. Generally increases the support award for a single child and decreases the support award for six or more children and/or when combined parental income per month is more than: \$9,500 for five or more children; \$10,600 for four or more children; \$11,100 for two or more children; and \$14,700 for one or more children.

**CHILD SUPPORT POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED**

**Parenting Time Presumption**

Creates a rebuttable presumption, in the absence of other evidence, that a parent is entitled to receive at least 25 percent of the parenting time. Allows parenting time to be calculated based on the number of overnight stays or by using an alternate method if the parent has significant time periods on separate days when the child is in the parent's physical custody but does not stay overnight.

**Offset for Health Care Coverage**

Stipulates any offset allowed for payment of the party's court-ordered health care coverage for the joint child terminates under the following circumstances:

- 1) The health care coverage for the joint child terminates;
- 2) The party does not enroll the joint child in other health care coverage; and
- 3) A modification motion is not pending.

Requires the public authority to notify the parties of the termination of the offset action.

**Child Support and Spousal Maintenance Payments**

Requires the court to direct all payments ordered for maintenance or support be made to the public authority responsible for child support enforcement so long as the obligee is receiving or has applied for public assistance or has applied for child support or maintenance collection services. Requires that monthly payments received by the public agency from the obligor that are greater than the monthly amount of public assistance granted to the obligee must be remitted to the obligee.

**Modification of Orders**

- Adds a circumstance under which an existing maintenance or support order may be modified if the support is less than \$75.
- Adds the following as reasons to allow a modification of support during the first year following the effective date (January 1, 2007): if a parent or another caregiver of the child who is supported by the existing support order begins to receive public assistance; or there are additional work-related or education-related child care expenses; or there is a change in the availability of health coverage; or there is a substantial increase or decrease in the cost of existing health care coverage.

**Child Care Exception for Modification of Orders**

Stipulates that child care support must be based on the actual cost of child care and that a decrease in the amount of child care support is effective on the actual date of the decrease in the cost of the child care.

**Collecting Unreimbursed or Uninsured Medical Expenses**

Clarifies the procedures for collection of unreimbursed or uninsured medical expenses. Stipulates which party must initiate the request for reimbursement and the procedures for collection of amounts owed one party or the other.

**Six Month Review**

Requires that a form to request a six-month review hearing be attached to a decree or order that initially establishes child support rights and obligations signed on or after January 1, 2007.



**OTHER FAMILY LAW POLICY CHANGES**

**Moving a Child to Another State**

Allows parents to agree upon the legal standard that would govern a decision concerning the removal of a child's residence from Minnesota as long as both parents were represented by counsel when the parenting plan was approved or the court found the parents were fully informed, the agreement was voluntary and the parents were aware of its implications. Creates a best interest standard that the court shall apply when considering the request of the parent with whom the child resides to move the child's residence to another state. Stipulates the burden of proof to move the residence of the child is upon the parent requesting to move, except if the court finds that the parent requesting the move has been a victim of domestic abuse by the other parent. Then the burden of proof is on the parent opposing the move.

**HUMAN SERVICES**

**CHILDREN AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM POLICY CHANGES**

**Child Support Enforcement Grants**

*Program description: Child support enforcement helps families receive child support, an important component to help many families become self-sufficient and stay off public assistance. Services provided by the state and counties to help families include: establishing paternity; establishing and modifying child support, medical support and child care support orders; collecting and disbursing support; enforcing support orders; and using various tools to collect support.*

- The child support enforcement office is to impose an additional annual collection fee of \$25 for each child support case in which the public authority has collected at least \$500 of support for individuals who have never received public assistance (the fee is not to be retained from the first \$500 collected).

**Asset Limits for Food Stamp Households**

- Increases the asset limitation for food stamp households who meet income eligibility to less than \$7,000 (excluding vehicles).

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Act**

Chapter 264 – S.F. 2833

Requires the Commissioner of Human Services to develop a report for homeless youth, youth at risk of homelessness and runaways. Stipulates the report must include coordination of services for runaway and homeless youth that include street and community outreach and drop-in programs, emergency shelter programs and supportive and transitional housing.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

CHAPTER 282 – H.F. 4162

## Crime Victim Support Grant

- Provides a grant to a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing immediate and long-term emotional support and practical help for the families and friends of individuals who have died by homicide, suicide or accident.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000

*Note: This is a one-time appropriation.*

## Mentoring Program

- Provides a grant to a nonprofit organization located in the greater Twin Cities to provide one-to-one mentoring relationships to youth between the ages of seven and 13 whose parent or other significant family member is incarcerated in a correctional facility or is the subject of correctional supervision. Stipulates the grant must be used to provide children with adult mentors to: strengthen developmental outcomes, improve academic performance and improve relationships with peers, family and other adults to prevent the youth from entering the juvenile correctional system.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000

*Note: This is a one-time appropriation.*

## Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Pilot Project

- Grant to Ramsey County to implement the safe harbor for sexually exploited youth pilot project. The project is to develop a victim services model to address the needs of sexually exploited youth and must focus on intervention and prevention; training for law enforcement, educators, social service providers, health care workers, advocates, court officials, prosecutors and public defenders; and programs promoting positive outcomes for victims. The project must include development of a statewide model protocol for intervention and victim services for sexually exploited youth including juvenile runaways, truants and victims of criminal sexual conduct, prostitution and labor and sex trafficking. Requires Ramsey County to report the results of the pilot project by January 15, 2008, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate and House committees and divisions having jurisdiction over criminal justice funding and policy.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$98,000	\$98,000

*Note: This is a one-time appropriation.*

## Youth Intervention Program

*Program description: Provides prevention and early intervention services for at-risk youth to prevent their involvement in the juvenile justice system, including: leadership development, mentoring, restorative justice services, pre-court diversion services, counseling services, education programs and gender or culturally specific program services.*

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
Supplemental Funding	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000

*Note: Funding must be used to help existing programs serve the unmet needs in communities and to create new programs in underserved areas of the state. This supplemental funding is added to the program's base budget.*

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Human Trafficking Task Force and Plan to Address Human Trafficking**

- Creates the membership, duties and responsibilities of the 22-member human trafficking task force. Requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to analyze the data collected as part of the statewide assessment of human trafficking and develop a plan to address current trafficking and prevent future trafficking of persons in this state with the assistance of the task force. Stipulates the plan must include training of law enforcement and social service agencies, a public awareness strategy and procedures to enable the state government to work with nongovernmental organizations to prevent trafficking in humans. Requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to report the plan to the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate and House committees and divisions having jurisdiction over criminal justice policy and funding by December 15, 2006.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000

*Note: This is a one-time appropriation.*

**Toll-Free Human Trafficking Tip Line**

- Requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to contract with a nonprofit organization that provides legal services to domestic and international trafficking victims to maintain a toll-free telephone hotline for trafficking victims. Requires that the hotline be in place by January 1, 2007, and that it must operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year and offer language interpreters for languages commonly spoken in Minnesota. At a minimum the hotline must screen trafficking victims, both domestic and international, and provide appropriate referrals to attorneys and victims' services organizations.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000

*Note: The base budget for operations of the toll-free line is \$15,000 in FY 2008 and FY 2009.*

**Legal Advocacy for Trafficking Victims**

- Funds grants to three weekly clinics in Hennepin County that are staffed by attorneys from a nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to immigrants.

	FY 2006	FY 2007	Total
New Funding	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000

*Note: This is a one-time appropriation.*

**Increasing Trafficking Penalties for the Trafficking of Minors**

Chapter 260 – H.F. 2656

- Labor trafficking** - Increases the statutory maximum sentence to 20 years and/or a \$40,000 fine (was 15 years and/or a \$30,000 fine) for a person who knowingly engages in the labor trafficking of another where the victim is under the age of 18.
- Unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of labor or sex trafficking** - Increases the statutory maximum sentence to 10 years and/or a \$20,000 fine (was five years and/or a \$10,000 fine) for unlawful conduct with respect to immigration or other travel documents in furtherance of labor or sex trafficking if the victim is under the age of 18.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY CHANGES**

**Violation of a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order or Restraining Order**

Increases the offense to a gross misdemeanor when a person knowingly violates a domestic abuse no contact order or restraining order within 10 years of a previous domestic violence-related offense conviction or adjudication of delinquency.

**Violation of an Order for Protection or Restraining Order**

Makes it a gross misdemeanor for a person who violates an order for protection within 10 years of a previous qualified domestic-related offense conviction or adjudication or delinquency. Makes it a felony if a person knowingly violates an order for protection or a restraining order within 10 years of the first of two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions or adjudication of delinquency.

**Qualified Domestic Violence-Related Offense.**

Adds violation of domestic abuse no contact order and interference with an emergency call to qualified domestic violence-related offenses.

**Entry and Enforcement of Foreign Protective Orders.**

Recognizes that a “foreign protective order” that is entered by a court of another state, an Indian tribe, or a United States territory, is valid in Minnesota and shall be enforced in the same manner as an order for protection issued in Minnesota. Requires a peace officer to treat a foreign protective order as a valid legal document and to make an arrest for a violation of the order in the same manner as if the order were issued in Minnesota. Makes the peace officer immune from civil and criminal liability arising out of any reasonable and good faith action during the enforcement of the foreign order for protection.

**Victim Notification**

Requires a prosecutor to make every reasonable effort to notify the victim of a criminal sexual conduct offense that the prosecutor has decided to decline prosecution of the case or to dismiss the criminal charges filed against the defendant. Requires a record to be made of the specific reasons for the dismissal of criminal sexual conduct offense charges.

**Domestic Fatality Review Team Pilot Project**

Extends the duration of the fourth judicial district domestic fatality review team pilot project from December 31, 2006, to December 31, 2008. Requires the submission of a review team report by January 15, 2009.

**Election Laws**

Chapter 242 – S.F. 2743

Allows the Secretary of State to establish a confidential program to allow victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking to exercise their right to vote without disclosing their whereabouts.

**Domestic Violence Informational Brochure**

Chapter 282 – H. F. 4162

Directs the Commissioner of Human Services to provide a domestic violence informational brochure about the existence of domestic violence waivers to applicants for public assistance including general assistance (GA), general assistance medical care (GAMC), Minnesota family investment program (MFIP), medical assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare applicants. Specifies the brochure must provide information about services and other programs to help victims of domestic violence and explain that eligible applicants may be temporarily waived from certain program requirements due to domestic violence.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ABE	Adult Basic Education	GAMC	General Assistance Medical Care
BSF	Basic Sliding Fee	MA	Medical Assistance
CCAP	Child Care Assistance Program	MELF	Minnesota Early Learning Foundation
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	MFIP	Minnesota Family Investment Program
E-12	Early Education through secondary school	QIRS	Quality Improvement and Rating System
ECFE	Early Childhood Family Education	OIC	Opportunity Industrialization Center
FY	State Fiscal Year (July 1st to June 30th)	TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
GA	General Assistance	TY	Transition Year