

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to child protection; directing a fiscal analysis of the child welfare system;
 1.3 requiring reports; appropriating money.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES; CHILD**
 1.6 **WELFARE FISCAL ANALYSIS.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. Child welfare system fiscal analysis. (a) By August 1, 2024, the
 1.8 commissioner of human services must contract with the third-party independent consultant
 1.9 selected pursuant to subdivision 2 to conduct an independent fiscal analysis of Minnesota's
 1.10 child welfare system, including the funding streams that exist between federal, state, county,
 1.11 and Tribal systems.

1.12 (b) Before the fiscal analysis is conducted, the consultant must sign a statement that
 1.13 states the consultant does not receive any funds from any child welfare providers in
 1.14 Minnesota, the Minnesota Departments of Health or Human Services, any county in
 1.15 Minnesota, or any of Minnesota's Tribal Nations, except as it relates to the conducting of
 1.16 the fiscal analysis.

1.17 (c) When conducting the fiscal analysis, the consultant must evaluate:

1.18 (1) statewide data sharing mechanisms within the child welfare system, including
 1.19 Minnesota juvenile courts;

1.20 (2) financial systems and funding pathways within the child welfare system;

1.21 (3) current staffing within the state, counties, and Minnesota's Tribal Nations that are
 1.22 responsible for child welfare system budgeting and reimbursement, and the identification

2.1 of the necessary staff skills and resources required to obtain, manage, and distribute federal
2.2 funds to counties and Minnesota's Tribal Nations;

2.3 (4) Minnesota's access to, utilization of, and reimbursement of funding under Title IV-E,
2.4 Title IV-B, the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, TANF, Medicaid, the
2.5 federal Social Services Block Grant Program, and other federal funds for child welfare-related
2.6 expenses, including legal representation, training, and prevention services;

2.7 (5) relevant information needed to secure federal funds;

2.8 (6) Minnesota's Family First Prevention Services Act implementation plan and claiming
2.9 processes;

2.10 (7) the social service information system, including its ability to efficiently integrate
2.11 child welfare information and its ability to manage, track, and share information between
2.12 the state, counties, and Minnesota's Tribal Nations; and

2.13 (8) Minnesota's Title IV-E attorney and training reimbursements.

2.14 Subd. 2. **Consultant selection.** By July 1, 2024, the legislative task force on child
2.15 protection, in consultation with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, must select a
2.16 third-party independent consultant to conduct the fiscal analysis in subdivision 1. The
2.17 consultant must have national expertise in transforming child welfare systems and conducting
2.18 fiscal analyses, including conducting a similar analysis on another state's claiming practices
2.19 under the Family First Prevention Services Act, as well as that state's federal Title IV-E and
2.20 Title IV-B reimbursement mechanisms.

2.21 Subd. 3. **Working group.** (a) A working group is established to support and advise the
2.22 consultant during the fiscal analysis. The consultant will meet regularly with the working
2.23 group throughout the fiscal analysis in subdivision 1 and the writing of the report in
2.24 subdivision 4. The working group must help the consultant obtain data and information
2.25 needed for the fiscal analysis, provide advice and support around the goals and timeline of
2.26 the fiscal analysis, and advise the consultant as needed during the duration of the fiscal
2.27 analysis.

2.28 (b) The working group shall consist of 11 members, appointed as follows:

2.29 (1) two members who are employees of the Department of Human Services with expertise
2.30 in child welfare, appointed by the commissioner of human services;

2.31 (2) two members appointed by the Minnesota Association of County Social Service
2.32 Administrators;

- 3.1 (3) one member appointed by the foster youth ombudsperson;
3.2 (4) one member appointed by the Minnesota Children's Justice Initiative;
3.3 (5) one member appointed by the Children's Cabinet;
3.4 (6) two members appointed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council; and
3.5 (7) two members of the public who work within the children's prevention services
3.6 community, appointed by the governor.

3.7 Subd. 4. **Report.** By March 15, 2025, the consultant must submit a final report to the
3.8 commissioner of human services and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
3.9 legislative committees with jurisdiction over the child welfare system. The final report must
3.10 include the findings from the fiscal analysis in subdivision 1 and must also include proposed
3.11 legislation for any statutory changes needed.

3.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

3.13 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; CHILD WELFARE FISCAL ANALYSIS.**

3.14 \$250,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.15 of human services to contract with the third-party independent consultant selected by the
3.16 Legislative Task Force on Child Protection and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to conduct
3.17 a fiscal analysis of Minnesota's child welfare funding streams. This is a onetime
3.18 appropriation.