SENATE STATE OF MINNESOTA NINETY-THIRD SESSION

A bill for an act

S.F. No. 716

(SENATE AUTHORS: CHAMPION, Kunesh, Murphy, Maye Quade and Abeler)			
D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS		
376	Introduction and first reading		
	Referred to Health and Human Services		
575	Author added Kunesh		
11559	Author added Murphy		
11659	Author added Maye Quade		
12064	Author added Abeler		
12368a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary and Public Safety		
12898a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance		
16437	Comm report: To pass as amended		
16460	Second reading		
	Special Order: Amended		
	Third reading Passed		
	D-PG 376 575 11559 11659 12064 12368a 12898a 16437		

1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6	relating to human services; establishing the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act; modifying child welfare provisions; requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.329, subdivisions 3, 8; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260.
1.7	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
1.8	Section 1. [260.61] CITATION.
1.9	Sections 260.61 to 260.693 may be cited as the "Minnesota African American Family
1.10	Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act."
1.11	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under
1.12	section 20.
1.13	Sec. 2. [260.62] PURPOSES.
1.14	(a) The purposes of the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child
1.15	Welfare Disproportionality Act are to:
1.16	(1) protect the best interests of African American and disproportionately represented
1.17	children;
1.18	(2) promote the stability and security of African American and disproportionately
1.19	represented children and their families by establishing minimum standards to prevent the
1.20	arbitrary and unnecessary removal of African American and disproportionately represented
1.21	children from their families; and

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- (3) improve permanency outcomes, including family reunification, for African American and disproportionately represented children.
- (b) Nothing in this legislation is intended to interfere with the protections of the Indian 2.3 Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to 1963, or the 2.4 2.5 Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.835.
- **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under 2.6 section 20. 2.7

Sec. 3. [260.63] DEFINITIONS.

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Subdivision 1. Scope. The definitions in this section apply to sections 260.61 to 260.693.

Subd. 2. Active efforts. "Active efforts" means a rigorous and concerted level of effort that the responsible social services agency must continuously make throughout the time that the responsible social services agency is involved with an African American or a disproportionately represented child and the child's family. To provide active efforts to preserve an African American or a disproportionately represented child's family, the responsible social services agency must continuously involve an African American or a disproportionately represented child's family in all services for the family, including case planning and choosing services and providers, and inform the family of the ability to file a report of noncompliance with this act with the commissioner through the child welfare compliance and feedback portal. When providing active efforts, a responsible social services agency must consider an African American or a disproportionately represented child's family's social and cultural values at all times while providing services to the African American or disproportionately represented child and the child's family. Active efforts includes continuous efforts to preserve an African American or a disproportionately represented child's family and to prevent the out-of-home placement of an African American or a disproportionately represented child. If an African American or a disproportionately represented child enters out-of-home placement, the responsible social services agency must make active efforts to reunify the African American or disproportionately represented child with the child's family as soon as possible. Active efforts sets a higher standard for the responsible social services agency than reasonable efforts to preserve the child's family, prevent the child's out-of-home placement, and reunify the child with the child's family. Active efforts includes the provision of reasonable efforts as required by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 670 to 679c.

Subd. 3. Adoptive placement. "Adoptive placement" means the permanent placement of an African American or a disproportionately represented child made by the responsible

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social services agency upon a fully executed adoption placement agreement, including the 3.1 signatures of the adopting parent, the responsible social services agency, and the 3.2 3.3 commissioner of human services according to section 260C.613, subdivision 1. Subd. 4. African American child. "African American child" means a child having 3.4 3.5 origins in Africa, including a child of two or more races who has at least one parent with origins in Africa. Whether a child or parent has origins in Africa is based upon 3.6 self-identification or identification of the child's origins by the parent or guardian. 3.7 Subd. 5. Best interests of the African American or disproportionately represented 3.8 child. The "best interests of the African American or disproportionately represented child" 3.9 3.10 means providing a culturally informed practice lens that acknowledges, utilizes, and embraces the African American or disproportionately represented child's community and cultural 3.11 norms and allows the child to remain safely at home with the child's family. The best interests 3.12 of the African American or disproportionately represented child support the child's sense 3.13 of belonging to the child's family, extended family, kin, and cultural community. 3.14 Subd. 6. Child placement proceeding. (a) "Child placement proceeding" means any 3.15 judicial proceeding that could result in: 3.16 (1) an adoptive placement; 3.17 (2) a foster care placement; 3.18 (3) a preadoptive placement; or 3.19 (4) a termination of parental rights. 3.20 (b) Judicial proceedings under this subdivision include a child's placement based upon 3.21 a child's juvenile status offense but do not include a child's placement based upon: 3.22 (1) an act which if committed by an adult would be deemed a crime; or 3.23 3.24 (2) an award of child custody in a divorce proceeding to one of the child's parents. Subd. 7. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services 3.25 3.26 or the commissioner's designee. Subd. 8. Custodian. "Custodian" means any person who is under a legal obligation to 3.27 provide care and support for an African American or a disproportionately represented child, 3.28 or who is in fact providing daily care and support for an African American or a 3.29 disproportionately represented child. This subdivision does not impose a legal obligation 3.30 upon a person who is not otherwise legally obligated to provide a child with necessary food, 3.31 clothing, shelter, education, or medical care. 3.32

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4.1	Subd. 9. Disproportionality. "Disproportionality" means the overrepresentation of
4.2	African American children and other disproportionately represented children in Minnesota's
4.3	child welfare system population as compared to the representation of those children in
4.4	Minnesota's total child population.
4.5	Subd. 10. Disproportionately represented child. "Disproportionately represented child"
4.6	means an unmarried person who is under the age of 18 and who is a member of a community
4.7	whose race, culture, ethnicity, disability status, or low-income socioeconomic status is
4.8	disproportionately encountered, engaged, or identified in the child welfare system as
4.9	compared to the representation in the state's total child population, as determined on an
4.10	annual basis by the commissioner. A child's race, culture, or ethnicity is determined based
4.11	upon a child's self-identification or identification of a child's race, culture, or ethnicity as
4.12	reported by the child's parent or guardian.
4.13	Subd. 11. Egregious harm. "Egregious harm" has the meaning given in section 260E.03,
4.14	subdivision 5.
4.15	Subd. 12. Foster care placement. "Foster care placement" means the temporary
4.16	placement of an African American or a disproportionately represented child in foster care
4.17	as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 18, following the court-ordered removal of the
4.18	child when the parent or legal custodian cannot have the child returned upon demand.
4.19	Subd. 13. Imminent physical damage or harm. "Imminent physical damage or harm"
4.20	means that a child is threatened with immediate and present conditions that are
4.21	<u>life-threatening</u> or likely to result in abandonment, sexual abuse, or serious physical injury.
4.22	Subd. 14. Responsible social services agency. "Responsible social services agency"
4.23	has the meaning given in section 260C.007, subdivision 27a.
4.24	Subd. 15. Parent. "Parent" means the biological parent of an African American or a
4.25	disproportionately represented child or any person who has legally adopted an African
4.26	American or a disproportionately represented child. Parent includes an unmarried father
4.27	whose paternity has been acknowledged or established and a putative father. Paternity has
4.28	been acknowledged when an unmarried father takes any action to hold himself out as the
4.29	biological father of a child.
4.30	Subd. 16. Preadoptive placement. "Preadoptive placement" means a responsible social
4.31	services agency's placement of an African American or a disproportionately represented
4.32	child when the child is under the guardianship of the commissioner for the purpose of
4.33	adoption but an adoptive placement agreement for the child has not been fully executed.

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	Subd. 17. Relative. "Relative" has the meaning given in section 260C.007, subdivision
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	Subd. 18. Safety network. "Safety network" means a group of individuals identified by
1	the parent and child, when appropriate, that is accountable for developing, implementing,
	sustaining, supporting, or improving a safety plan to protect the safety and well-being of a
•	child.
	Subd. 19. Sexual abuse. "Sexual abuse" has the meaning given in section 260E.03,
	subdivision 20.
	Subd. 20. Termination of parental rights. "Termination of parental rights" means an
	action resulting in the termination of the parent-child relationship under section 260C.301.
	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under
	section 20.
	Sec. 4. [260.64] DUTY TO PREVENT OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT AND
	PROMOTE FAMILY REUNIFICATION.
	Subdivision 1. Active efforts. A responsible social services agency shall make active
	efforts to prevent the out-of-home placement of an African American or a disproportionately
	represented child, eliminate the need for a child's removal from the child's home, and reunify
	an African American or a disproportionately represented child with the child's family as
	soon as practicable.
	Subd. 2. Safety plan. (a) Prior to petitioning the court to remove an African American
•	or a disproportionately represented child from the child's home under section 260.66, a
1	responsible social services agency must work with the child's family to allow the child to
1	remain in the child's home while implementing a safety plan based on the family's needs.
,	The responsible social services agency must:
	(1) make active efforts to engage the child's parent or custodian and the child, when
	appropriate;
	(2) assess the family's cultural and economic needs and, if applicable, needs and services
1	related to the child's disability;
	(3) hold a family group consultation meeting and connect the family with supports to
•	establish a safety network for the family; and
	(4) provide support, guidance, and input to assist the family and the family's safety
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network with developing the safety plan.

	b)	The	safety	plan	must:
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(1) address the specific allegations impacting the child's safety in the home. If neglect is alleged, the safety plan must incorporate economic services and supports for the child and the child's family, if eligible, to address the family's specific needs and prevent neglect;

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- (2) evaluate whether an order for protection under section 518B.01 or other court order expelling an allegedly abusive household member from the home of a parent or custodian who is not alleged to be abusive will allow the child to safely remain in the home;
- (3) incorporate family and community support to ensure the child's safety while keeping the family intact; and
 - (4) be adjusted as needed to address the child's and family's ongoing needs and support.
- (c) The responsible social services agency is not required to establish a safety plan:
- (1) in a case with allegations of sexual abuse or egregious harm; 6.12
- (2) when the parent is not willing to follow a safety plan; 6.13
- (3) when the parent has abandoned the child or is unavailable to follow a safety plan; 6.14 6.15 or
- (4) when the parent has chronic substance use disorder issues and is unable to parent 6.16 the child. 6.17
 - Subd. 3. Out-of-home placement prohibited. Unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the child would be at risk of serious physical damage if the child were to remain in the child's home, a court shall not order a foster care or permanent out-of-home placement of an African American or a disproportionately represented child alleged to be in need of protection or services. At each hearing regarding an African American or a disproportionately represented child who is alleged or adjudicated to be in need of child protective services, the court shall review whether the responsible social services agency has provided active efforts to the child and the child's family and shall require the responsible social services agency to provide evidence and documentation that demonstrate that the agency is providing culturally informed, strength-based, community-involved, and community-based services to the child and the child's family.
 - Subd. 4. Required findings that active efforts were provided. When determining whether the responsible social services agency has made active efforts to preserve the child's family, the court shall make findings regarding whether the responsible social services agency made appropriate and meaningful services available to the child's family based upon

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the family's specific needs. If a court determines that the responsible social services agency did not make active efforts to preserve the family as required by this section, the court shall order the responsible social services agency to immediately provide active efforts to the child and child's family to preserve the family.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under section 20.

Sec. 5. [260.641] ENSURING FREQUENT VISITATION FOR AFRICAN

AMERICAN AND DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED CHILDREN IN

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT.

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A responsible social services agency must engage in best practices related to visitation when an African American or a disproportionately represented child is in out-of-home placement. When the child is in out-of-home placement, the responsible social services agency shall make active efforts to facilitate regular and frequent visitation between the child and the child's parents or custodians, the child's siblings, and the child's relatives. If visitation is infrequent between the child and the child's parents, custodians, siblings, or relatives, the responsible social services agency shall make active efforts to increase the frequency of visitation and address any barriers to visitation.

7.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under section 20.

Sec. 6. [260.65] NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS.

- (a) Prior to or within 48 hours of the removal of an African American or a disproportionately represented child from the child's home, the responsible social services agency must make active efforts to identify and locate the child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and the child's relatives to notify the child's parent and relatives that the child is or will be placed in foster care, and provide the child's parent and relatives with a list of legal resources. The notice to the child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent and relatives must also include the information required under section 260C.221, subdivision 2, paragraph (b). The responsible social services agency must maintain detailed records of the agency's efforts to notify parents and relatives under this section.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 260C.219, the responsible social services agency must assess an African American or a disproportionately represented child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent's ability to care for the child before placing the child in foster care. If a child's noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent is willing and able to provide

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8.1	daily care for the African American or disproportionately represented child temporarily or
8.2	permanently, the court shall order that the child be placed in the home of the noncustodial
8.3	or nonadjudicated parent pursuant to section 260C.178 or 260C.201, subdivision 1. The
8.4	responsible social services agency must make active efforts to assist a noncustodial or
8.5	nonadjudicated parent with remedying any issues that may prevent the child from being
8.6	placed with the noncustodial or nonadjudicated parent.
8.7	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under
8.8	section 20.
8.9	Sec. 7. [260.66] EMERGENCY REMOVAL.
8.10	Subdivision 1. Emergency removal or placement permitted. Nothing in this section
8.11	shall be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an African American or a
8.12	disproportionately represented child's parent or custodian or the emergency placement of
8.13	the child in a foster setting in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the
8.14	<u>child.</u>
8.15	Subd. 2. Petition for emergency removal; placement requirements. A petition for a
8.16	court order authorizing the emergency removal or continued emergency placement of an
8.17	African American or a disproportionately represented child or the petition's accompanying
8.18	documents must contain a statement of the risk of imminent physical damage or harm to
8.19	the African American or disproportionately represented child and any evidence that the
8.20	emergency removal or placement continues to be necessary to prevent imminent physical
8.21	damage or harm to the child. The petition or its accompanying documents must also contain
8.22	the following information:
8.23	(1) the name, age, and last known address of the child;
8.24	(2) the name and address of the child's parents and custodians, or, if unknown, a detailed
8.25	explanation of efforts made to locate and contact them;
8.26	(3) the steps taken to provide notice to the child's parents and custodians about the
8.27	emergency proceeding;
8.28	(4) a specific and detailed account of the circumstances that led the agency responsible
8.29	for the emergency removal of the child to take that action; and
8.30	(5) a statement of the efforts that have been taken to assist the child's parents or custodians

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so that the child may safely be returned to their custody.

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Subd. 3. Emergency proceeding requirements. (a) The court shall hold a hearing no later than 72 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, after the emergency removal of the African American or disproportionately represented child. The court shall determine whether the emergency removal continues to be necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child and whether, after considering the child's particular circumstances, the imminent physical damage or harm to the child outweighs the harm that the child will experience as a result of continuing the emergency removal.

- (b) The court shall hold additional hearings whenever new information indicates that the emergency situation has ended. The court shall consider all such new information at any court hearing after the emergency proceeding to determine whether the emergency removal or placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child.
- (c) Notwithstanding section 260C.163, subdivision 3, and the provisions of Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure, rule 25, a parent or custodian of an African American or a disproportionately represented child who is subject to an emergency hearing under this section and Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure, rule 30, has a right to counsel appointed by the court. The court must appoint qualified counsel to represent a parent if the parent meets the eligibility requirements in section 611.17.
- Subd. 4. Termination of emergency removal or placement. (a) An emergency removal or placement of an African American or a disproportionately represented child must immediately terminate once the responsible social services agency or court possesses sufficient evidence to determine that the emergency removal or placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child and the child shall be immediately returned to the custody of the child's parent or custodian. The responsible social services agency or court shall ensure that the emergency removal or placement terminates immediately when the removal or placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the African American or disproportionately represented child.
- (b) An emergency removal or placement ends when the court orders, after service upon the African American or disproportionately represented child's parents or custodians, that the child shall be placed in foster care upon a determination supported by clear and convincing evidence that custody of the child by the child's parent or custodian is likely to result in serious physical damage to the child.

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(c) In no	instance shall emerg	ency removal or	emergency placemer	nt of an African
American or	a disproportionately	represented chil	d extend beyond 30 d	lays unless the court
finds by a she	owing of clear and c	onvincing evide	nce that:	
(1) contin	ued emergency remo	oval or placement	is necessary to preven	nt imminent physical
damage or ha	arm to the child; and			
(2) it has	not been possible to	initiate a child p	placement proceeding	with all of the
protections u	nder sections 260.61	1 to 260.68.		
EFFECT	TIVE DATE. This se	ection is effective	e July 1, 2026, except	t as provided under
section 20.				
Sec. 8. [260	0.67] TRANSFER (OF PERMANE	NT LEGAL AND P	HYSICAL
CUSTODY ;	TERMINATION	OF PARENTAI	RIGHTS; CHILD	PLACEMENT
PROCEEDI	INGS.			
Subdivisi	on 1. Preference for	r transfer of pe	rmanent legal and p	hysical custody. If
an African A	merican or a disprop	portionately repr	esented child cannot	be returned to the
child's parent	t, the court shall cons	sider the requiren	nents of and responsib	oilities under section
260.012, para	agraph (a), and, if po	ossible, transfer j	permanent legal and p	physical custody of
the child to:				
(1) a none	custodial parent und	er section 260C.	515, subdivision 4, if	the child cannot
return to the	care of the parent or	custodian from	whom the child was r	emoved or who had
legal custody	at the time that the	child was placed	l in foster care; or	
(2) a willi	ing and able relative	, according to th	e requirements of sec	tion 260C.515,
subdivision 4	4, if the court determ	ines that reunific	cation with the child's	family is not an
appropriate p	permanency option for	or the child. Price	r to the court ordering	g a transfer of
permanent le	gal and physical cust	tody to a relative	who is not a parent, th	e responsible social
services ager	ncy must inform the	relative of North	star kinship assistanc	e benefits and
eligibility rec	quirements, and of th	ne relative's abili	ty to apply for benefi	ts on behalf of the
child under c	hapter 256N.			
Subd. 2.	Termination of par	ental rights rest	rictions. (a) A court	shall not terminate
the parental r	rights of a parent of	an African Ame	rican or a disproportion	onately represented
child based s	olely on the parent's	failure to comp	ete case plan require	ments.
(b) Excep	ot as provided in para	agraph (c), a cou	rt shall not terminate	the parental rights

of a parent of an African American or a disproportionately represented child in a child

placement proceeding unless the allegations against the parent involve sexual abuse;

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11.1	egregious harm as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 14; murder in the first, second,
11.2	or third degree under section 609.185, 609.19, or 609.195; murder of an unborn child in the
11.3	first, second, or third degree under section 609.2661, 609.2662, or 609.2663; manslaughter
11.4	of an unborn child in the first or second degree under section 609.2664 or 609.2665; domestic
11.5	assault by strangulation under section 609.2247; felony domestic assault under section
11.6	609.2242 or 609.2243; kidnapping under section 609.25; solicitation, inducement, and
11.7	promotion of prostitution under section 609.322, subdivision 1, and subdivision 1a if one
11.8	or more aggravating factors are present; criminal sexual conduct under sections 609.342 to
11.9	609.3451; engaging in, hiring, or agreeing to hire a minor to engage in prostitution under
11.10	section 609.324, subdivision 1; solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct under
11.11	section 609.352; possession of pornographic work involving minors under section 617.247;
11.12	malicious punishment or neglect or endangerment of a child under section 609.377 or
11.13	609.378; use of a minor in sexual performance under section 617.246; or failing to protect
11.14	a child from an overt act or condition that constitutes egregious harm.
11.15	(c) The court may terminate the parental rights of a parent of an African American or a
11.16	disproportionately represented child under section 260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (b),
11.17	clause (4) or (6), if a transfer of permanent legal and physical custody under subdivision 1
11.18	is not possible because the child has no willing or able noncustodial parent or relative to
11.19	whom custody can be transferred.
11.20	(d) Nothing in this subdivision precludes the court from terminating the parental rights
11.21	of a parent of an African American or a disproportionately represented child if the parent
11.22	desires to voluntarily terminate the parent's own parental rights for good cause under section
11.23	260C.301, subdivision 1, paragraph (a).
11.24	Subd. 3. Appeals. Notwithstanding the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure,
11.25	rule 47.02, subdivision 2, a parent of an African American or a disproportionately represented
11.26	child whose parental rights have been terminated may appeal the decision within 90 days
11.27	of the service of notice by the court administrator of the filing of the court's order.
11.28	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under
11.29	section 20.

Sec. 9. [260.68] RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY CONDUCT AND 11.30 CASE REVIEW. 11.31

Subdivision 1. Responsible social services agency conduct. (a) A responsible social services agency employee who has duties related to child protection shall not knowingly:

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12.1	(1) make untrue statements about any case involving a child alleged to be in need of
12.2	protection or services;
12.3	(2) intentionally withhold any information that may be material to a case involving a
12.4	child alleged to be in need of protection or services; or
12.5	(3) fabricate or falsify any documentation or evidence relating to a case involving a child
12.6	alleged to be in need of protection or services.
12.7	(b) Any of the actions listed in paragraph (a) shall constitute grounds for adverse
12.8	employment action.
12.9	Subd. 2. Case review. (a) Each responsible social services agency shall conduct a review
12.10	of all child welfare cases for African American and other disproportionately represented
12.11	children handled by the agency. Each responsible social services agency shall create a
12.12	summary report of trends identified under paragraphs (b) and (c), a remediation plan as
12.13	provided in paragraph (d), and an update on implementation of any previous remediation
12.14	plans. The first report shall be provided to the African American Child Well-Being Advisory
12.15	Council, the commissioner, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative
12.16	committees with jurisdiction over child welfare by October 1, 2029, and annually thereafter.
12.17	For purposes of determining outcomes in this subdivision, responsible social services
12.18	agencies shall use guidance from the commissioner. The commissioner shall provide guidance
12.19	starting on November 1, 2028, and annually thereafter.
12.20	(b) The case review must include:
12.21	(1) the number of African American and disproportionately represented children
12.22	represented in the county child welfare system;
12.23	(2) the number and sources of maltreatment reports received and reports screened in for
12.24	investigation or referred for family assessment and the race of the children and parents or
12.25	custodians involved in each report;
12.26	(3) the number and race of children and parents or custodians who receive in-home
12.27	preventive case management services;
12.28	(4) the number and race of children whose parents or custodians are referred to
12.29	community-based, culturally appropriate, strength-based, or trauma-informed services;
12.30	(5) the number and race of children removed from their homes;
12.31	(6) the number and race of children reunified with their parents or custodians;

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achieve and document trauma-informed, positive child well-being outcomes through

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under

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remediation efforts.

section 20.

Sec. 9.

14.1	Sec. 10. [260.69] CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING FOR INDIVIDUALS
14.2	WORKING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DISPROPORTIONATELY
14.3	REPRESENTED CHILDREN.
14.4	Subdivision 1. Applicability. The commissioner of human services must collaborate
14.5	with the Children's Justice Initiative to ensure that cultural competency training is given to
14.6	individuals working in the child welfare system, including child welfare workers, supervisors,
14.7	attorneys, juvenile court judges, and family law judges.
14.8	Subd. 2. Training. (a) The commissioner must develop training content and establish
14.9	the frequency of trainings.
14.10	(b) The cultural competency training under this section is required prior to or within six
14.11	months of beginning work with any African American or disproportionately represented
14.12	child and their family. A responsible social services agency staff person who is unable to
14.13	complete the cultural competency training prior to working with African American or
14.14	disproportionately represented children and their families must work with a qualified staff
14.15	person within the agency who has completed cultural competency training until the person
14.16	is able to complete the required training. The training must be available by January 1, 2027,
14.17	and must:
14.18	(1) be provided by an African American individual or individual from a community that
14.19	is disproportionately represented in the child welfare system who is knowledgeable about
14.20	African American and other disproportionately represented social and cultural norms and
14.21	historical trauma;
14.22	(2) raise awareness and increase a person's competency to value diversity, conduct a
14.23	self-assessment, manage the dynamics of difference, acquire cultural knowledge, and adapt
14.24	to diversity and the cultural contexts of communities served;
14.25	(3) include instruction on effectively developing a safety plan and instruction on engaging
14.26	a safety network; and
14.27	(4) be accessible and comprehensive and include the ability to ask questions.
14.28	(c) The training may be provided in a series of segments, either in person or online.
14.29	Subd. 3. Update. The commissioner must provide an update to the chairs and ranking
14.30	minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child protection by
14.31	July 1, 2027, on the rollout of the training under subdivision 1 and the content and
14.32	accessibility of the training under subdivision 2.

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15.1	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under
15.2	section 20.
15.3	Sec. 11. [260.691] AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD WELL-BEING ADVISORY
15.4	COUNCIL.
15.5	Subdivision 1. Duties. The African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council must:
15.6	(1) review annual reports related to African American children involved in the child
15.7	welfare system. These reports may include but are not limited to the maltreatment,
15.8	out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American children;
15.9	(2) assist with and make recommendations to the commissioner for developing strategies
15.10	to reduce maltreatment determinations, prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement, promote
15.11	culturally appropriate foster care and shelter or facility placement decisions and settings for
15.12	African American children in need of out-of-home placement, ensure timely achievement
15.13	of permanency, and improve child welfare outcomes for African American children and
15.14	their families;
15.15	(3) review summary reports on targeted case reviews prepared by the commissioner to
15.16	ensure that responsible social services agencies meet the needs of African American children
15.17	and their families. Based on data collected from those reviews, the council shall assist the
15.18	commissioner with developing strategies needed to improve any identified child welfare
15.19	outcomes, including but not limited to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency
15.20	for African American children;
15.21	(4) assist the Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council with making
15.22	recommendations to the commissioner and the legislature for public policy and statutory
15.23	changes that specifically consider the needs of African American children and their families
15.24	involved in the child welfare system;
15.25	(5) advise the commissioner on stakeholder engagement strategies and actions that the
15.26	commissioner and responsible social services agencies may take to improve child welfare
15.27	outcomes for African American children and their families;
15.28	(6) assist the commissioner with developing strategies for public messaging and
15.29	communication related to racial disproportionality and disparities in child welfare outcomes
15.30	for African American children and their families;
15.31	(7) assist the commissioner with identifying and developing internal and external
15.32	partnerships to support adequate access to services and resources for African American
15.33	children and their families, including but not limited to housing assistance, employment

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assistance, food and nutrition support, health care, child care assistance, and educational 16.1 16.2 support and training; and 16.3 (8) assist the commissioner with developing strategies to promote the development of a culturally diverse and representative child welfare workforce in Minnesota that includes 16.4 professionals who are reflective of the community served and who have been directly 16.5 impacted by lived experiences within the child welfare system. The council must also assist 16.6 16.7 the commissioner with exploring strategies and partnerships to address education and training needs, hiring, recruitment, retention, and professional advancement practices. 16.8 Subd. 2. Annual report. By January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the council shall 16.9 16.10 report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child protection on the council's activities under subdivision 1 and other 16.11 issues on which the council chooses to report. The report may include recommendations 16.12 for statutory changes to improve the child protection system and child welfare outcomes 16.13 for African American children and families. 16.14 16.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024. 16.16 Sec. 12. [260.692] AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILD WELL-BEING UNIT. Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The African American Child Well-Being Unit, currently 16.17 16.18 established by the commissioner, must: (1) assist with the development of African American cultural competency training and 16.19 review child welfare curriculum in the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy to 16.20 ensure that responsible social services agency staff and other child welfare professionals 16.21 are appropriately prepared to engage with African American children and their families and 16.22 to support family preservation and reunification; 16.23 (2) provide technical assistance, including on-site technical assistance, and case 16.24 consultation to responsible social services agencies to assist agencies with implementing 16.25 and complying with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare 16.26 16.27 Disproportionality Act; (3) monitor individual county and statewide disaggregated and nondisaggregated data 16.28 to identify trends and patterns in child welfare outcomes, including but not limited to 16.29 reporting, maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American 16.30 16.31 children and develop strategies to address disproportionality and disparities in the child

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welfare system;

17.1	(4) develop and implement a system for conducting case reviews when the commissioner
17.2	receives reports of noncompliance with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation
17.3	and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act or when requested by the parent or custodian of
17.4	an African American child. Case reviews may include but are not limited to a review of
17.5	placement prevention efforts, safety planning, case planning and service provision by the
17.6	responsible social services agency, relative placement consideration, and permanency
17.7	planning;
17.8	(5) establish and administer a request for proposals process for African American and
17.9	disproportionately represented family preservation grants under section 260.693, monitor
17.10	grant activities, and provide technical assistance to grantees;
17.11	(6) in coordination with the African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council,
17.12	coordinate services and create internal and external partnerships to support adequate access
17.13	to services and resources for African American children and their families, including but
17.14	not limited to housing assistance, employment assistance, food and nutrition support, health
17.15	care, child care assistance, and educational support and training; and
17.16	(7) develop public messaging and communication to inform the public about racial
17.17	disparities in child welfare outcomes, current efforts and strategies to reduce racial disparities,
17.18	and resources available to African American children and their families involved in the
17.19	child welfare system.
17.20	Subd. 2. Case reviews. (a) The African American Child Well-Being Unit must conduct
17.21	systemic case reviews to monitor targeted child welfare outcomes, including but not limited
17.22	to maltreatment, out-of-home placement, and permanency of African American children.
17.23	(b) The reviews under this subdivision must be conducted using a random sampling of
17.24	representative child welfare cases stratified for certain case related factors, including but
17.25	not limited to case type, maltreatment type, if the case involves out-of-home placement,
17.26	and other demographic variables. In conducting the reviews, unit staff may use court records
17.27	and documents, information from the social services information system, and other available
17.28	case file information to complete the case reviews.
17.29	(c) The frequency of the reviews and the number of cases, child welfare outcomes, and
17.30	selected counties reviewed shall be determined by the unit in consultation with the African
17.31	American Child Well-Being Advisory Council, with consideration given to the availability
17.32	of unit resources needed to conduct the reviews.
17.33	(d) The unit must monitor all case reviews and use the collective case review information

and data to generate summary case review reports, ensure compliance with the Minnesota

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18.1	African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act, and
18.2	identify trends or patterns in child welfare outcomes for African American children.
18.3	(e) The unit must review information from members of the public received through the
18.4	compliance and feedback portal, including policy and practice concerns related to individual
18.5	child welfare cases. After assessing a case concern, the unit may determine if further
18.6	necessary action should be taken, which may include coordinating case remediation with
18.7	other relevant child welfare agencies in accordance with data privacy laws, including the
18.8	African American Child Well-Being Advisory Council, and offering case consultation and
18.9	technical assistance to the responsible local social services agency as needed or requested
18.10	by the agency.
18.11	Subd. 3. Reports. (a) The African American Child Well-Being Unit must provide regular
18.12	updates on unit activities, including summary reports of case reviews, to the African
18.13	American Child Well-Being Advisory Council, and must publish an annual census of African
18.14	American children in out-of-home placements statewide. The annual census must include
18.15	data on the types of placements, age and sex of the children, how long the children have
18.16	been in out-of-home placements, and other relevant demographic information.
18.17	(b) The African American Child Well-Being Unit shall gather summary data about the
18.18	practice and policy inquiries and individual case concerns received through the compliance
18.19	and feedback portal under subdivision 2, paragraph (e). The unit shall provide regular reports
18.20	of the nonidentifying compliance and feedback portal summary data to the African American
18.21	Child Well-Being Advisory Council to identify child welfare trends and patterns to assist
18.22	with developing policy and practice recommendations to support eliminating disparity and
18.23	disproportionality for African American children.
18.24	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.
18.25	Sec. 13. [260.693] AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DISPROPORTIONATELY
18.26	REPRESENTED FAMILY PRESERVATION GRANTS.

Subdivision 1. Primary support grants. The commissioner shall establish direct grants to organizations, service providers, and programs owned and led by African Americans and other individuals from communities disproportionately represented in the child welfare system to provide services and support for African American and disproportionately represented children and their families involved in Minnesota's child welfare system, including supporting existing eligible services and facilitating the development of new services and providers, to create a more expansive network of service providers available for African American and disproportionately represented children and their families.

Sec. 13. 18 19.1 Subd. 2. Eligible services. (a) Services eligible for grants under this section include but 19.2 are not limited to: 19.3 (1) child out-of-home placement prevention and reunification services; (2) family-based services and reunification therapy; 19.4 19.5 (3) culturally specific individual and family counseling; 19.6 (4) court advocacy; (5) training for and consultation to responsible social services agencies and private social 19.7 services agencies regarding this act; 19.8 (6) development and promotion of culturally informed, affirming, and responsive 19.9 community-based prevention and family preservation services that target the children, youth, 19.10 19.11 families, and communities of African American and African heritage experiencing the highest disparities, disproportionality, and overrepresentation in the Minnesota child welfare 19.12 19.13 system; (7) culturally affirming and responsive services that work with children and families in 19.14 their communities to address their needs and ensure child and family safety and well-being 19.15 within a culturally appropriate lens and framework; 19.16 19.17 (8) services to support informal kinship care arrangements; and (9) other activities and services approved by the commissioner that further the goals of 19.18 the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality 19.19 Act, including but not limited to the recruitment of African American staff and staff from 19.20 other communities disproportionately represented in the child welfare system to work for 19.21 responsible social services agencies and licensed child-placing agencies. 19.22 (b) The commissioner may specify the priority of an activity and service based on its 19.23 19.24 success in furthering these goals. The commissioner shall give preference to programs and service providers that are located in or serve counties with the highest rates of child welfare 19.25 disproportionality for African American and other disproportionately represented children 19.26 and their families and employ staff who represent the population primarily served. 19.27 Subd. 3. Ineligible services. Grant money may not be used to supplant funding for 19.28 existing services or for the following purposes: 19.29 (1) child day care that is necessary solely because of the employment or training for 19.30 employment of a parent or another relative with whom the child is living; 19.31 (2) foster care maintenance or difficulty of care payments; 19.32

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20.2	(4) adoption assistance or Northstar kinship assistance payments under chapter 259A
20.3	<u>or 256N;</u>
20.4	(5) public assistance payments for Minnesota family investment program assistance,
20.5	supplemental aid, medical assistance, general assistance, general assistance medical care,
20.6	or community health services; or
20.7	(6) administrative costs for income maintenance staff.
20.8	Subd. 4. Requests for proposals. The commissioner shall request proposals for grants
20.9	under subdivisions 1, 2, and 3 and specify the information and criteria required.
20.10	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.
20.11	Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 260C.329, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
20.12	Subd. 3. Petition. The county attorney or, a parent whose parental rights were terminated
20.13	under a previous order of the court, a child who is ten years of age or older, the responsible
20.14	social services agency, or a guardian ad litem may file a petition for the reestablishment of
20.15	the legal parent and child relationship. A parent filing a petition under this section shall pay
20.16	a filing fee in the amount required under section 357.021, subdivision 2, clause (1). The
20.17	filing fee may be waived pursuant to chapter 563. A petition for the reestablishment of the
20.18	legal parent and child relationship may be filed when:
20.19	(1) in cases where the county attorney is the petitioning party, both the responsible social
20.20	services agency and the county attorney agree that reestablishment of the legal parent and
20.21	child relationship is in the child's best interests;
20.22	(2) (1) the parent has corrected the conditions that led to an order terminating parental
20.23	rights;
20.24	(3)(2) the parent is willing and has the capability to provide day-to-day care and maintain
20.25	the health, safety, and welfare of the child;
20.26	(4) (3) the child has been in foster care for at least 48 24 months after the court issued
20.27	the order terminating parental rights;
20.28	(5) (4) the child has not been adopted; and
20.29	(6) (5) the child is not the subject of a written adoption placement agreement between
20.30	the responsible social services agency and the prospective adoptive parent, as required under
20.31	Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0060, subpart 2.

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(3) residential treatment facility payments;

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21.1	EFFECTIV	E DATE. This sec	tion is effective	ve July 1, 2026, excep	t as provided under
21.2	section 20.				
21.3	Sec. 15. Minn	esota Statutes 2022	2, section 2600	C.329, subdivision 8,	is amended to read:
21.4	Subd. 8. He	aring. The court m	ay grant the p	etition ordering the re	establishment of the
21.5	legal parent and child relationship only if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that:				
21.6	(1) reestablishment of the legal parent and child relationship is in the child's best interests;				
21.7	(2) the child has not been adopted;				
21.8	(3) the child	is not the subject of	of a written ad	option placement agre	eement between the
21.9	responsible social services agency and the prospective adoptive parent, as required under				
21.10	Minnesota Rule	es, part 9560.0060,	subpart 2;		
21.11	(4) at least 4	8 <u>24</u> months have e	lapsed followi	ng a final order termir	nating parental rights
21.12	and the child re	mains in foster care	2 ;		
21.13	(5) the child	desires to reside w	ith the parent	;	
21.14	(6) the paren	at has corrected the	conditions that	t led to an order termin	ating parental rights;
21.15	and				
21.16	(7) the parer	nt is willing and has	s the capabilit	y to provide day-to-da	ny care and maintain
21.17	the health, safet	y, and welfare of th	ne child.		
21.18	EFFECTIV	E DATE. This sec	tion is effective	ve July 1, 2026, excep	t as provided under
21.19	section 20.				
21.20	Sec 16 DIDI	ECTION TO CON	<i>I</i> MISSIONE	R OF HUMAN SER	VICES:
21.20	DISAGGREG.		THISSIONE	K OF HOMAN SER	VICES,
21.22				stablish a process to in	
21.23				outcomes for African	
21.24		-		ld welfare system. The	e commissioner must
21.25	begin disaggreg	gating data by Janua	ary 1, 2027.		
21.26	EFFECTIV	E DATE. This sec	tion is effective	ve July 1, 2026.	
21.27	Sec. 17. CHI I	LD WELFARE CO	OMPLIANC:	E AND FEEDBACK	PORTAL.

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The commissioner of human services shall develop, maintain, and administer a publicly

accessible online compliance and feedback portal to receive reports of noncompliance with

the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality

22.1	Act under Minnesota Statutes, sections 260.61 to 260.693, and other statutes related to child
22.2	maltreatment, safety, and placement. Reports received through the portal must be transferred
22.3	for review and further action to the appropriate unit or department within the Department
22.4	of Human Services, including but not limited to the African American Child Well-Being
22.5	<u>Unit.</u>
22.6	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under
22.7	section 20.
,	
22.8	Sec. 18. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; MAINTAINING CONNECTIONS
22.9	IN FOSTER CARE BEST PRACTICES.
22.10	The commissioner of human services shall develop and publish guidance on best practices
22.11	for ensuring that African American and disproportionately represented children in foster
22.12	care maintain connections and relationships with their parents, custodians, and extended
22.13	relatives. The commissioner shall also develop and publish best practice guidance on
22.14	engaging and assessing noncustodial and nonadjudicated parents to care for their African
22.15	American or disproportionately represented children who cannot remain with the children's
22.16	custodial parents.
22.17	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2026, except as provided under
22.17	section 20.
22.10	Section 20.
22.19	Sec. 19. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; COMPLIANCE SYSTEM REVIEW
22.20	DEVELOPMENT.
22.21	(a) By January 1, 2026, the commissioner of human services, in consultation with counties
22.22	and the working group established under section 21, must develop a system to review county
22.23	compliance with the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare
22.24	Disproportionality Act. The system may include but is not limited to the cases to be reviewed,
22.25	the criteria to be reviewed to demonstrate compliance, the rate of noncompliance and the
22.26	coordinating penalty, the program improvement plan, and training.
22.27	(b) By January 1, 2026, the commissioner of human services must provide a report to
22.28	the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
22.29	over child welfare on the proposed compliance system review process and language to
22.29	codify that process in statute.
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22.31	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.

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Sec. 20. <u>M</u>	IINNESOTA AFRIC	CAN AMERIC	AN FAMILY PRESI	ERVATION AND
CHILD WI	ELFARE DISPROP	ORTIONALIT	Y ACT; PHASE-IN	PROGRAM.
(a) The c	commissioner of hum	an services mus	t establish a phase-in	program that
mplements	sections 1 to 18 in H	ennepin and Ra	msey Counties.	
(b) The o	commissioner of hum	an services mus	st report on the outcom	mes of the phase-in
orogram, inc	cluding the number of	participating fa	milies, the rate of chil	dren in out-of-home
lacement, a	and the measures take	n to prevent out	of-home placement for	or each participating
amily to the	e chairs and ranking r	minority membe	ers of the legislative co	ommittees with
urisdiction	over child welfare.			
(c) Section	ons 1 to 18 are effecti	ive July 1, 2024	, for purposes of this	phase-in program.
(d) This	section expires July 1	, 2027.		
EFFEC	FIVE DATE. This se	ection is effectiv	re July 1, 2024.	
Sec. 21. M	IINNESOTA AFRIC	CAN AMERIC	AN FAMILY PRESI	ERVATION AND
CHILD WE	ELFARE DISPROP	ORTIONALIT	Y ACT; WORKING	G GROUP.
(a) The c	commissioner of hum	an services mus	t establish a working	group to provide
			American Family Pre	
	-		ns in Hennepin and Ra	
(b) The n	nembers of the working	ng group must in	nclude representatives	from the Minnesota
ssociation	of County Social Serv	ice Administrato	ors, the Association of	Minnesota Counties,
he Minneso	ta County Attorneys	Association, He	ennepin County, Rams	sey County, the
Department	of Human Services,	and community	organizations with ex	perience in child
welfare. The	legislature may provi	ide recommenda	ations to the commission	oner on the selection
of the repres	sentatives from the co	mmunity organ	izations.	
(c) The v	vorking group must p	rovide oversigh	t of the phase-in progr	am and evaluate the
cost of the p	hase-in program. The	e working group	must also assess futu	ire costs of
mplementir	ng the Minnesota Afri	can American l	Family Preservation as	nd Child Welfare
Disproportio	onality Act statewide.			
(d) By Ju	nne 30, 2026, the worl	king group mus	develop an implemer	ntation plan and best
practices for	the Minnesota Afric	an American Fa	mily Preservation and	d Child Welfare

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Disproportionality Act to go into effect statewide.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.

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24.1	Sec. 22. APPROPRIATIONS; MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY
24.2	PRESERVATION AND CHILD WELFARE DISPROPORTIONALITY ACT.
24.3	(a) \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the
24.4	commissioner of human services for grants to Hennepin and Ramsey Counties to implement
24.5	the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality
24.6	Act phase-in program. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2026.
24.7	(b) \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the
24.8	commissioner of human services for the African American and disproportionately represented
24.9	family preservation grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693.
24.10	Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.98, subdivision 14, the amount for
24.11	administrative costs under this paragraph is \$0.
24.12	(c) \$1,967,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the

commissioner of human services to implement the African American Family Preservation

and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act. The base for this appropriation is \$3,451,000 in

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fiscal year 2026 and \$3,310,000 in fiscal year 2027.

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