

ADOPTION SUBSIDIES

House Bill 4344

Sponsor: Rep. H. Lynn Jondahl

Committee: Social Services and Youth

Complete to 4-16-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4344 AS INTRODUCED 2-20-91

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to specify certain conditions for the payment of support and medical subsidies for adopted children. At present, before a subsidy can be provided, the Department of Social Services (DSS) must certify that an adoptee is eligible under minimum requirements specified by the act; various additional conditions must be met before payment of an adoption subsidy without respect to the income of the adopting parent(s). The bill would clarify minimum requirements for certifications and place additional conditions on the payment of medical subsidies. It would take effect July 1, 1991.

Certification. Various requirements apply to certification for support and medical subsidies. The bill would add for each a requirement that certification for the subsidy in question be made before the adoptee's eighteenth birthday (the law provides for termination of an adoption subsidy when the adoptee reaches 18 years of age). For medical subsidies, the bill also would require that the adoptee have been in foster care at the time the petition for adoption was filed (for support subsidies, the law now requires that the adoptee have been in foster care for four months before certification).

Conditions. Conditions for the payment of support subsidies would remain virtually unchanged. For medical subsidies, however, the bill would require that all available third party payment be used before payment of a medical subsidy was made (the law already requires that all other available public money be used prior to payment of a medical subsidy). Payment for treatment of a mental or emotional condition would be limited to outpatient treatment if the child was ineligible to receive a support subsidy. Payment for a medical subsidy requested after the adoptee was placed in adoption would be effective on the date the request was received by DSS if the necessary documentation for certification was received within 90 days after the request was made.

Pre-1980 adoptions. The bill would delete language that provides for the payment of subsidies to adopting parents who were not receiving subsidies when the current adoption subsidy provisions took effect (which was on November 18, 1980).

Rules. The bill would delete language that requires the DSS to promulgate rules regarding adoption subsidies.

MCL 400.115f

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