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TO: Senator Jim Abeler

FROM: Kathleen Pontius, Senate Counsel (651/296-4394)

DATE: July 12, 2017

RE: Welfare Data Sharing Amendments in Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill
(First Special Session Chapter 6, Article 7)

Section 1 amends the education data statute to establish a process under which county personnel in the welfare system may request access to education data in order to coordinate services for a student or family. A request must be submitted to the chief administrative officer of the school and include the basis for the request and a description of the information requested. A copy must be provided to the parent or legal guardian of the student, along with the form that may be executed to consent to release of the information. Education data may be released under this subdivision only with informed consent.

Section 2 amends definitions in the welfare data statute. The definitions of “program” and “welfare system” are expanded to include Native American tribe programs that provide a service component of the welfare system. In addition, county public health agencies, veteran services agencies, and housing agencies are added as part of the welfare system.

Section 3 amends welfare data sharing provisions to authorize the disclosure of data to the chief administrative officer of a school to coordinate services for a student and family. This disclosure would be limited to name, date of birth, gender, and address. In addition, data could be disclosed to county correctional agencies to the extent necessary to coordinate services and diversion programs. This disclosure would be limited to name, client demographics, program, case status, and county worker information.

Section 4 amends the court services data statute to allow the disclosure of data to county personnel within the welfare system.

Section 36, paragraph (a), repeals the current statute authorizing data sharing within counties, which is replaced by the amendments under sections 2 and 3.