

Tom Bottem, Director

Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave. W. Suite 3300  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1800  
(651) 296-4791  
www.senate.mn/scrfa

## **S.F. No. 1324 (The A-1 Amendment) – Human services programs temporary modifications establishment as permanent changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Author:** Senator Carla J. Nelson

**Prepared by:** Patrick Hauswald, Senate Counsel (651/296-5079)

**Date:** March 1, 2021

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**S.F. No. 1324**, as proposed to be amended by the A-1 amendment, would permanently extend certain policies implemented pursuant to waivers issued by the commissioner of human services during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency.

**Sections 1-2 and 7-9** permit the minimum required targeted case management contacts to be conducted by interactive video for up to two consecutive contacts following each in-person contact, subject to an annual limit of 50 percent of the contacts being conducted by interactive video, for purposes of Medical Assistance reimbursement.

**Sections 3-6, 10, and 16** authorize long-term care assessments to be conducted remotely.

**Section 11** permits housing support temporary absence payments to exceed the 18-day absence period up to 150 days per year, for individuals who are temporarily absent due to residential behavioral health treatment or health care treatment that requires admission to an inpatient health care facility.

**Sections 12-15** permit Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP) applications to be submitted remotely (online or via telephone), authorize assistance to begin on the date that the application is submitted, permit applicant interviews to be conducted by telephone, and require a signed application to be submitted within 30 days of an application submitted by telephone or online. Section 14 eliminates the requirement for MFIP caregiver orientation to be face-to-face.