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## **S.F. No. 1418 – Moving the Spinal Cord Injury and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Grant Program to the Department of Human Services**

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**Senate File No. 1418** moves the spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury research grant program from the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to the Department of Human Services (DHS). The program was established in 2015 to provide grants to institutions for research into spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries. The Governor’s budget proposal included eliminating the funding and repealing the program, stating that the program is misaligned with the OHE’s mission and OHE does not have relevant expertise to oversee a medical research grant program.

**Section 1 (256.4791)** requires the Commissioner of Human Services to establish the program, and 50 percent of the grant funds must go to spinal cord injury research and the other half to research involving traumatic brain injury. An annual report is required beginning January 15, 2022, specifying the institutions receiving grants.

**Section 2 (256.4792)** establishes the advisory council, which works in consultation with the commissioner to award grants, and expands the membership of the council by two people.

**Section 3** appropriates \$5,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Existing funding is \$3,000,000 per year.

**Section 4** repeals the program and advisory council in the OHE chapter of law.

The sections in the bill are effective July 1, 2021.