

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

Description	Senate File # & Current Action	House File # & Current Action	Why MFFN is tracking
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MFFN is tracking bills that would affect fathers or fatherhood professionals. This is not an exhaustive list nor does tracking the bill imply MFFN's endorsement or opposition, except where it is indicated that the legislation directly relates to one of MFFN's approved public policy agenda items for 2009. Please contact Melissa Froehle, Policy and Program Director at MFFN, at (651) 222-7432 or mfroehle@mnfathers.org with any questions.

<Language in bold indicates changes since our last bill tracking was updated. Language in red indicates legislation that has meet committee deadlines and is still “alive” at this point.>

<p>Provides for a new base period for calculating unemployment benefits; providing for a limited extension of benefits</p>	<p><u>SF4/HF4/Passed both houses. Presented to Governor and signed by Gov. 1/29/09.</u> House research summary: Base period. Provides that benefits may be calculated on either the last four completed calendar quarters or the first four of the last five completed calendar quarter before the effective date of the applicant's application for unemployment benefits, whichever yields the higher amount of wage credits for the applicant. This change is effective for applications filed on or after July 1, 2009. Special emergency benefits. Provides state emergency UI benefits to applicants that don't qualify for federal extended benefits because they do not meet the federal minimum earnings requirement. This section is effective the Sunday following final enactment and expires June 30, 2010.</p>	<p>Would help persons who are receiving unemployment benefits - help contribute to economic stability for fathers and families.</p>
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FAMILY LAW & CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION

<p>Expands grandparent visitation rights, specifies procedures; requires mediation (Authors Mullery, Urdahl, Greiling, Doty), Compare to House File 542, similar topic</p>	<p>No Senate companion bill at this time.</p>	<p>HF46, Referred to the Committee on Civil Justice.</p>	<p>Would affects parents' [fathers] custody rights and grandparents' [grandfathers] and great grandparents parenting time rights.</p>
<p>Requires affidavit regarding disclosure of birth records in adoption cases; requires updated nonidentifying medical history</p>	<p>SF164; SF137 respectively.</p> <p>SF164, has passed the Senate and been added as an amendment to SF1503 (child welfare bill).</p> <p>SF137, Referred to Health, Housing and Family Security, withdrawn and re-referred to Judiciary. Passed as amended, re-referred to Finance. Committee report to pass as amended. Second Reading 3/19.</p>	<p>HF327; HF328</p> <p>HF327 Received from Senate 4/1/09 and referred to Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight.</p> <p>HF328 Referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight; 2/16 Committee Report to pass as amended, and re-refer to Civil Justice. Committee report to pass and re-refer to Finance. Referred by Chair to Health Care and Human Services Finance Division.</p>	<p>Would affect parents' rights (including birth fathers) and rights of adopted children in adoption cases.</p>
<p>Provides for gender-neutral marriage laws; enacts the Marriage and Family Protection Act</p>	<p>SF120, 1/15 Referred to the Committee on Judiciary</p>	<p>HF893, 2/16 Referred to Civil Justice.</p>	<p>Would affect gay fathers (and families)</p>
<p>Requires collection service fees to be paid by obligor in child support cases</p>	<p>SF135, 1/22 Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.</p>	<p>HF887, Referred to Civil Justice.</p> <p>Heard in Civil Justice on 3/2 and withdrawn by author for further study (due to a concern about complying with federal requirements on child support collections).</p>	<p>Would affect parents who pay or receive child support; would change child support collection fees to now be paid exclusively by the obligor in all cases.</p>

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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Provides for the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act	SF410, Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.	HF1133, 2/2 Referred to Public Safety Policy and Oversight Committee.	Would help parents whose children are at risk of abduction.
Grandparent visitation rights on behalf of child provided, grandparent visitation rights expanded, procedures specified, and mediation required (Authors: Smith, Davids, Nornes, Demmer, Kiffmeyer, Urdahl, Shimanski) - Compare to HF 46, similar topic	No companion bill at this time.	HF542, 2/5 Referred to Civil Justice Committee.	Would affects parents' [fathers] custody rights and and grandparents' [grandfathers] and great grandparents parenting time rights.
<p>Relating to child support; changing certain provisions and deadlines; redirecting payment of child support</p> <p>(see also SF1292) (see also SF1508 – redirection bill)</p>	SF521, 2/9 Referred to Judiciary.	HF543, 2/5 Referred to Civil Justice.	<p>Would allow for administrative redirection of child support to a caregiver who is receiving public assistance, or who has legal responsibility of a child through a voluntary placement agreement under 260C.212, subd. 8, or who has custody of a child through a court-ordered placement that does not address redirection of child support.</p> <p><i>Supported by MFFN Policy Initiative #5, Identify and promote administrative resolutions for common and easily verifiable changes in family situations... such as changes in public assistance... change in child's residence.</i></p> <p>The bill also would provide that child support judgments do not expire.</p>
<p>Relating to marriage, clarifying and modifying certain terms and procedures, specifying forms</p>	SF548, Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Committee report, to pass as amended. 4/1 Second Reading.	HF695, Referred to Committee on Public Safety Policy and Oversight. Committee report, to pass and re-refer to Civil Justice. Hrg 3/18. Committee report, to pass as amended. 3/26 Second Reading.	Requires consent of a "legal custodial" parent to the marriage of a person of 16 years of age, would affect a father's ability to consent to minor's marriage if they are not the legal custodial parent
Parentage presumption and right to custody provisions modified and clarified, and prebirth parentage orders or judgments provided in certain cases	SF436, 2/5 Referred to Judiciary.	HF890, Referred to Civil Justice. Hrg 3/16. Committee report, to pass as amended. 3/18 Second Reading.	Would apply to fathers and families, in which pregnancies are initiated by means other than sexual intercourse, to allow for maternal or paternal presumptions in cases involving express agreements among all known presumptive parents
Father and child relationship nonexistence declaration modification	SF882, 2/23 Referred to Judiciary.	No House Companion bill at this time.	Would allow for a court action to declare the non-existence of father-child relationship at any time (would expand law in this area) in cases of certain presumed fathers relating to marriage, where the presumed father and the mother of the child did not cohabitate or engage in sexual intercourse with each other during the probable time of conception; and (2) the presumed father never openly held out the child as his biological child.

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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Marriage dissolution minimum parenting time rebuttable presumption; parenting expense adjustment	SF1223, 3/5 Referred to Judiciary.	HF1003, Referred to Civil Justice. Heard in committee on 3/2 and held over.	Would increase current 25% rebuttable presumption of parenting time to 40%, require the court to provide written findings if the presumption is rebutted, and would add another tier of parenting expense adjustment for child support for those cases where parenting time is between 30 – 45% of time. (This change to the law would apply in all cases, not just divorces.)
Changes certain child custody and support provisions and presumptions; amends Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 518.17, subdivisions 2, 3; 518.175, subdivision 5	SF1248, Referred to Judiciary.	HF1183, Referred to Civil Justice.	Would provide no presumption for sole or joint physical or legal custody and require courts to decide these issues and include findings based on the best interests of the child; would also require a significant change in circumstances to modify a court's order on parenting time and impose certain time limits on bringing a motion to modify parenting time; and would require courts to consider parties' agreements as soon as possible without requiring the parties to submit to any other program as a prerequisite to court consideration.
Establishes a Minnesota divorce reconciliation project; redirecting disposition of a portion of the marriage license fee; requiring participation in a marriage dissolution education program before commencing marriage dissolution proceedings involving minor children; appropriating money	SF1227, 3/5 Referred to Judiciary.	HF1942, 3/19 referred to Civil Justice.	Would create a divorce reconciliation project through the University of Minnesota to develop, evaluate and disseminate best practices for promoting successful reconciliation between married people contemplating divorce, would require divorcing parents to complete a divorce education program before filing for divorce; set aside part of the marriage license fee to help fund program, and delineates what qualifies as a divorce education program.
Modifying the grounds for marriage dissolution; requiring two-year waiting period in certain instances	SF1281, 3/9 Referred to Judiciary.	HF1428, 3/9 Referred to Civil Justice.	Would require two-year waiting period before granting divorces or certain other grounds would be necessary (essentially ending no-fault divorces)
Providing for administrative redirection of child support in certain cases; providing that child support judgments do not expire (see also SF521/HF543) (see also SF1508 – redirection bill)	SF1292, 3/9 Referred to Judiciary.	No House Companion bill at this time.	Would allow for administrative redirection of child support to a caregiver who is receiving public assistance, or who has legal responsibility of a child through a voluntary placement agreement under 260C.212, subd. 8, or who has custody of a child through a court-ordered placement that does not address redirection of child support. <i>Supported by MFFN Policy Initiative #5, Identify and promote administrative resolutions for common and easily verifiable changes in family situations... such as changes in public assistance... change in child's residence.</i> The bill also would provide that child

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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			support judgments do not expire.
Adding a requirement for full compliance with payment agreements	SF1398, 3/12 Referred to Judiciary.	HF1185, 3/2 Referred to Civil Justice.	Would amend child support enforcement remedies, such as driver's license suspension, occupational license suspension and administrative seek employment orders to require <i>full</i> compliance with written payment agreements in order to avoid the enforcement remedy
Changing certain provisions; redirecting payment of child support (see also SF521/HF543) (see also SF1292)	SF1508, 3/12 Referred to Judiciary.	HF1771, Referred to Civil Justice. Committee report to pass as amended and re-refer to Finance. Referred by chair to Health Care and Human Services Finance Division, 4/7 pass and return to Finance.	Would allow for administrative redirection of child support to a caregiver who is receiving public assistance, or who has legal responsibility of a child through a voluntary placement agreement under 260C.212, subd. 8, or who has custody of a child through a court-ordered placement that does not address redirection of child support. <i>Supported by MFFN Policy Initiative #5, Identify and promote administrative resolutions for common and easily verifiable changes in family situations... such as changes in public assistance... change in child's residence.</i>
Prohibiting withdrawal of denial of a passport restriction based on child support arrearages	SF1553, 3/16 Referred to Judiciary.	HF1991, 3/19 referred to Civil Justice.	Would affect child support enforcement remedy of revocation or limitation of passports. Would not allow the child support office to withdraw certification if a child support obligor's passport is revoked or limited or an application for a passport is denied because the public authority has certified that the obligor owes arrearages of child support in excess of the amount specified under United States Code, title 42, section 652(k), regardless of whether the obligor is in compliance with a written payment agreement under section 518A.69.
EARLY CHILD HOOD LEGISLATION			
For a comprehensive review of early childhood legislation, including bill-tracking, see Ready 4 K at www.ready4k.org .			
Establishes an early childhood program for at-risk four-year-olds	SF1334. Introduced 3/9 and referred to Finance Committee.	HF15, Referred to the Committee on Finance; 1/12 Referred to Committee on Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division	This bill requires on emphasis on professional development and home visiting. <u>"An emphasis must be placed on ongoing professional development, focusing on the areas of teaching English language learners; cultural, ethnic, and race differences; and encouraging and improving parent involvement."</u> and <u>"The program must include home visits by program staff and parent education in early literacy activities."</u>

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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WORK / EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION – This is only a snapshot – there are many other bills on this topic.			
<p>A bill for an act relating to workforce development; establishing an emergency employment development program; providing wage subsidies; appropriating money (\$1.2 million each year of biennium)</p> <p>SF = Minnesota Emergency Employment Development (MEED) Act of 2009</p>	SF1529, Referred to Business, Industry and Jobs.	HF1326, Referred to the Committee on Finance. 3/5 Referred by Chair to Higher Education and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Division.	Would provide money towards wages subsidies and assistance for job seekers
<p>“SECOND CHANCE” LEGISLATION – Legislation supported by a coalition of over 24 nonprofits, including MFFN, that believe ex-offenders have paid their debt to society and need a chance to enter the workforce to support themselves and their family members.</p> <p>Other Second Change Legislation not listed here has been introduced: SF645 (addressing nonviolent drug offenses and conditional release programs); SF564 (civil rights restoration); SF763 (civil rights restoration notice requirements).</p>			
Prohibits use of arrest records for private employment purposes; provides immunity from negligent hiring as it relates to use of criminal records; imposes state liability	No Senate companion bill at this time.	HF213, Referred to the Committee on Public Safety Policy and Oversight; 1/27 referred to Crime Victims/Criminal Records Division	<p><i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, “Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes.”</i></p> <p><i>MFFN supports alternative version – HF882 .</i></p>
Limiting admission of criminal history evidence in actions against private employers	SF562, Referred to Judiciary.	HF882, Referred to Civil Justice... Has been incorporated into SF993, the Public Safety Omnibus Bill, and has had a second reading.	<p><i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, “Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes.”</i></p> <p><i>MFFN supports this version.</i></p>
Expungement law expanded and modified, courts authorized to modify or suspend collateral sanctions under certain circumstances, and situations limited in which juvenile delinquency criminal record is publicly available.	SF560, Referred to Judiciary. Committee report to pass as amended and re-refer to Finance.	HF891, Referred to Public Safety Policy and Oversight. 2/17 Referred by Chair to Crime Victims/Criminal Records Division. Pass as amended and return to Public Safety Policy and Oversight.	<p><i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, “Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes.”</i></p>
Addressing the consideration of a job applicant's criminal history during the public employment hiring process (“Ban the Box”)	SF538, Referred to State and Local Government Operations and Oversight. Committee report, to pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary. Has been incorporated into SF993, the Public Safety Omnibus Bill, and has had a second reading.	HF1043, Referred to Public Safety Policy and Oversight. Referred by Chair to Crime Victims/Criminal Records Division.... Has been incorporated into HF1301, the House Public Safety Omnibus Policy Bill, which passed the House on April 20.	<p><i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, “Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes.”</i></p>
Requiring postsecondary institutions to notify prospective students of the potential effects of a criminal conviction on future	SF537, Referred to Higher Education. Committee report, to pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary....	HF1044, Referred to Higher Education and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Division. The Higher Education Omnibus Bill	<p><i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, “Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes.”</i></p>

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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employment	Has been incorporated into SF2083, the Senate Higher Education Omnibus Bill, which passed the Senate on April 17. The bills are headed to conference committee.	passed the House on April 22 but without the Higher Education notice. The bills are headed to conference committee.	
Recodifying and restructuring the law on expungements of criminal records; expanding eligibility for expungements; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 609C	SF1231, Referred to Judiciary. Heard in Judiciary on 3/17, laid on the table.	HF1858, Referred to Public Safety Policy and Oversight. 3/19 Referred by Chair to Crime Victims/Criminal Records Division.	Expands statutory expungement process to all crimes, regardless of whether the proceedings were resolved in the person's favor. <i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, "Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes."</i>
Establishing certificates of good conduct and describing the effects of a certificate and eligibility for one; appropriating money	SF1097, Referred to Judiciary. Committee report to pass and re-refer to Finance.	HF1924, 3/19 Referred to Finance. 3/19 Referred by Chair to Public Safety Finance Division.	<i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, "Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes."</i>
Authorizing the state, MNSCU, the University of Minnesota, and cities to adopt a program requiring certain hiring practices in construction and services contracts	SF536, Referred to State Local Government Operations and Oversight. Committee report, to pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary... Has been incorporated into SF993, the Public Safety Omnibus Bill, and has had a second reading.	HF644, Referred to State and Local Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections. Referred by Chair to Local Government Division. Pass and return to State and Local Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections. Committee report, to pass as amended and re-refer to Finance. Referred by Chair to State Government Finance Division... more committee action. Last 3/26, Division action to pass and return to Finance.	Allows cities and public colleges/universities in Minnesota to require that contractors hire a certain number of ex-offenders and low-income individuals. <i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Item #9, "Make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain work through legislative and policy changes."</i>
CHILD WELFARE (CHILD PROTECTION) LEGISLATION			
Requiring comprehensive child welfare quality assurance system	SF770, 2/16 Referred to Health, Housing and Family Security.	HF790, 2/16 Referred to Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight.	Would require Minnesota to conduct quality assurance review process for the child welfare system based on the federally mandated Child and Family Services Reviews. (Federal reviews have indicated the need to better engage and work with fathers in the child protection system)
Providing for public defender representation for juveniles, children in need of protection, and other persons [including noncustodial parents]	SF1018, 3/2 Referred to Judiciary.	HF892, Referred to Committee on Civil Justice. Committee report to pass and re-refer to Finance. 3/18 Referred by chair to Public Safety Finance Division.	Would provide for a right to counsel, and for county reimbursement to the public defenders, for representing noncustodial parents [many fathers] from the time the noncustodial parent is made a party to the child protection proceeding or permanent placement proceedings. This would clarify and expand law for fathers (mostly).
Family Reunification Act of 2009 enacted, and certain child placement procedures changed	SF1857, 3/25 Referred to Judiciary.	HF1462, 3/9 Referred to Civil Justice.	Would allow a new option of suspension of parental rights (instead of termination) with an award of guardianship and legal and physical custody to a relative, and allows for process for reinstatement of parental rights.

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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Child Welfare Provisions Changed – Major Child Welfare Policy (and Technical) Bill	SF1503, Referred to Health, Housing and Family Security. Committee Report to pass as amended. 4/14 Second Reading. 4/22 General Orders – recommend to pass. (Senate version also contains records disclosure provisions affidavit filing by birth parents requirement; medical and social history information requests procedures)	HF1709, Referred to Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight. Committee report to pass and re-refer to Civil Justice. Committee report to pass. 3/30 Second Reading.	Includes both technical amendments to the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, and major policy changes, including amending child placement, relative search, establishment of paternity, visitation, and removal statutes to comply with federal law (The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008) and with federal requirements.
HEALTH LEGISLATION			
Establishes a public awareness campaign for postpartum depression	No Senate companion bill at this time.	HF43, Referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight.	Requires, among other things, physicians and others providing prenatal or postnatal care to mothers to include fathers in education and treatment process
"Minnesota Pregnant Women and Parent Support Act"	SF1278, referred to Health, Housing and Family Security.	HF1601, Referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight.	Prohibiting policy waiting periods for prenatal and maternity health insurance benefits; eliminating pregnancy as a preexisting condition; establishing <u>a parenting support grant program</u> ; establishing an informational hotline on available pregnancy, adoption, and <u>parental support</u> agencies; requiring information on alpha-feto protein testing be provided; requiring adoption referral information be provided; requiring adoption and parenting counseling be provided; establishing an adoption tax credit; establishing civil penalties; repealing the MFIP family cap; appropriating money
SERVICES			
Establishes a crisis nursery grant program; and appropriates money	SF127, Referred to the Committee on Finance.	HF460, Referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight.	Would provide grant money to crisis nursery programs that could be used by fathers. (Crisis nursery programs " <u>offer services and temporary care to families experiencing crisis situations including children who are at high risk of abuse and neglect, children who have been abused and neglected, and children who are in families receiving child protective services.</u> ")
Establishes the county jail reentry project; appropriates money	SF317, Referred to the Committee on Finance.	HF524, Referred to Public Safety Policy and Oversight.	Would help fathers reintegrate into communities by providing grant monies to fund services "to individuals confined in jails and county regional jails who are identified as having mental illness, traumatic brain injury, chemical dependency, or being homeless." Supported by MFFN Policy Initiative #9.

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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Establishing collaborative services for high-risk children; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256 (see also SF762/ HF1065)	SF634, Referred to Finance Committee.	HF714, Referred to Health Care, Human Services Policy and Oversight	Would provide early intervention collaborative services to children who are at high risk for child maltreatment, substance use, mental illness, and serious and violent offending, but not subject to the delinquency provisions of chapter 260B, among other things would provide intensive in-home and community casework
Parents' fair share program funding provided, and money appropriated	SF706, Referred to Finance Committee.	HF947, Referred to Health Care and Human Services Finance Division.	Would appropriate money for the parents' fair share program to assist unemployed, noncustodial parents with job search and parenting skills. <i>Supported by MFFN 2009 Policy Agenda, Policy Initiative #8: Increase opportunities for noncustodial parents to access training programs, paid work experience, and other tangible assistance for those hardest to employ and Policy Initiative #10: Appropriate state funds to provide services for low-income fathers and noncustodial parents in order to: (1) overcome barriers to employment or education, (2) access health and mental health services, and (3) access family law, child access, or co-parenting services.</i>
Establishing collaborative services for high-risk children; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256 (see also SF634/ HF714)	SF762, Referred to Health, Housing and Family Security.	HF1065, Referred to Health Care, Human Services Policy and Oversight.	Would provide early intervention collaborative services to children who are at high risk for child maltreatment, substance use, mental illness, and serious and violent offending, but not subject to the delinquency provisions of chapter 260B, among other things would provide intensive in-home and community casework
Working Family Resource Center grant provided and money appropriated.	No Senate companion at this time.	HF1430, 3/9 Referred to Finance. Referred by Chair to Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division.	Would appropriate money to the Working Family Resource Center to provide parent and family-life education to working parents in the workplace
OTHER			
Authorizes continuation of existing domestic fatality review team and permits all judicial districts to create domestic fatality review teams	SF17, Referred to the Committee on Judiciary... Has been incorporated into SF993, the Public Safety Omnibus Bill, and has had a second reading.	HF248, Referred to the Committee on Public Safety Policy and Oversight; 2/3 referred to Crime Victims/Criminal Records Division. 2/27 Division Action, to pass and return to Public Safety Policy and Oversight.	This bill pertains to domestic violence and involves efforts <u>"to develop recommendations for policies and protocols for community prevention and intervention initiatives to reduce and eliminate the incidence of domestic violence and resulting fatalities."</u>
Child care programs, program integrity, adult supports, and Minnesota family investment program	SF1509, 3/16 Referred to Health, Housing and Family Security. 4/1 Committee report to pass as amended and re-refer to Finance.	HF1728, 3/16 Referred to Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight. Committee report to pass as amended and re-refer to Early	One section of HF1728 would allow the county social service agency and the local public health department to use home visitors as employment and

Minnesota Fathers & Families Network Bill Tracking 2009 – Updated April 22, 2009

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(MFIP) amended, and home visitors as MFIP employment and training services providers utilized.		Childhood Finance and Policy. Committee report to pass as amended and re-refer to Finance. 4/1 referred by chair to Health Care and Human Services Finance Division.	training providers for MFIP participants who are ill or incapacitated under the hardship extension statute or <u>minor caregivers</u> , and to provide outreach to MFIP families who are being sanctioned or who have reached their 60-month time limit on MFIP.

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