

SB 5472-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Requires the secretary of the department of health to establish a pilot program to provide merit checks of no more than one hundred dollars to no more than four hundred fifty couples who complete a family preparation course. Matching funds may be used to increase the number of participants in the pilot program. The department of health must ensure that the administrative cost of the program does not exceed five percent of the total allocation.

Requires the pilot program to begin no later than January 1, 2008, and continue for no more than five years, in a county with a population between seven hundred twenty thousand and one million.

Provides that, under the pilot program, a man and a woman who intend to apply for a marriage license may, together or separately, complete a family preparation course of not less than four hours with a family preparation course provider.

Requires the department of health to report to the appropriate committees of the legislature five years after the completion of the pilot program. The committees shall make recommendations on whether the program should be initiated statewide based on the results of the number of participants who are still married as opposed to the average divorce rate.

Appropriates the sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, for the biennium ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of health for the purposes of this act.