

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to marriage; establishing a couples on the brink project; redirecting  
1.3 disposition of a portion of the marriage license fee; appropriating money;  
1.4 amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 517.08, subdivision 1c; proposing  
1.5 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. **[256.743] MINNESOTA COUPLES ON THE BRINK PROJECT.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** Within the limits of available appropriations, the  
1.9 commissioner shall develop and implement a Minnesota couples on the brink project, as  
1.10 provided for in this section. The commissioner may administer the project with federal  
1.11 grants, state appropriations, and in-kind services received for this purpose.

1.12 Subd. 2. **Purpose.** The purpose of the project is to develop, evaluate, and  
1.13 disseminate best practices for promoting successful reconciliation between married  
1.14 persons who are considering or have commenced a marriage dissolution proceeding and  
1.15 who choose to pursue reconciliation.

1.16 Subd. 3. **Implementation.** The project must be implemented through the University  
1.17 of Minnesota. The commissioner shall:

1.18 (1) enter into contracts or manage a grant process for implementation of the project;  
1.19 and

1.20 (2) develop and implement an evaluation component for the project.

1.21 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 517.08, subdivision 1c, is amended to read:

1.22 Subd. 1c. **Disposition of license fee.** (a) Of the marriage license fee collected  
1.23 pursuant to subdivision 1b, paragraph (a), \$25 must be retained by the county. The local

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2.1 registrar must pay \$85 to the commissioner of management and budget to be deposited  
2.2 as follows:

2.3 (1) \$50 in the general fund;

2.4 (2) \$3 in the state government special revenue fund to be appropriated to the  
2.5 commissioner of public safety for parenting time centers under section 119A.37;

2.6 (3) \$2 in the special revenue fund to be appropriated to the commissioner of health  
2.7 for developing and implementing the MN ENABL program under section 145.9255;

2.8 (4) \$25 in the special revenue fund is appropriated to the commissioner of  
2.9 employment and economic development for the displaced homemaker program under  
2.10 section 116L.96; and

2.11 (5) \$5 in the special revenue fund is appropriated to the commissioner of human  
2.12 services for the Minnesota Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiative under  
2.13 section 256.742 or the Minnesota couples on the brink project under section 256.743.

2.14 (b) Of the \$40 fee under subdivision 1b, paragraph (b), \$25 must be retained by the  
2.15 county. The local registrar must pay \$15 to the commissioner of management and budget  
2.16 to be deposited as follows:

2.17 (1) \$5 as provided in paragraph (a), clauses (2) and (3); and

2.18 (2) \$10 in the special revenue fund is appropriated to the commissioner of  
2.19 employment and economic development for the displaced homemaker program under  
2.20 section 116L.96.

2.21 (c) The increase in the marriage license fee under paragraph (a) provided for in Laws  
2.22 2004, chapter 273, and disbursement of the increase in that fee to the special fund for the  
2.23 Minnesota Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiative under paragraph (a),  
2.24 clause (5), is contingent upon the receipt of federal funding under United States Code,  
2.25 title 42, section 1315, for purposes of the initiative. The commissioner of human services  
2.26 shall disburse any balance in the special fund in excess of the amount for which federal  
2.27 matching funds are available for the initiative under section 256.742 to the Minnesota  
2.28 couples on the brink project under section 256.743, beginning with any balance in the fund  
2.29 available on the effective date of this act and every six months after that date.