

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

**S.F. No. 2449**

(SENATE AUTHORS: KENT)

DATE  
04/20/2021

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OFFICIAL STATUS  
Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Health and Human Services Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to health; requiring the commissioner of health to study and make  
1.3 recommendations on addressing the high obesity rate among individuals with  
1.4 intellectual disabilities; appropriating money.

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

1.6 Section 1. **STUDY ON OBESITY IN INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL**  
1.7 **DISABILITIES.**

1.8 (a) The commissioner of health, in consultation with the commissioner of human services  
1.9 and relevant stakeholder groups, shall study and make recommendations on ways to address  
1.10 the prevalence of obesity in individuals with intellectual disabilities due to a combination  
1.11 of behavioral, environmental, and systemic factors, including but not limited to high-calorie  
1.12 diets, lower physical activity and exercise, greater use of psychotropic medication, limited  
1.13 opportunities for exercise, and lack of appropriate and targeted dietary and lifestyle advice  
1.14 and education. The study and recommendations shall include:

1.15 (1) options for tracking data on obesity among individuals with intellectual disabilities;

1.16 (2) identifying barriers in providing effective weight management needs for individuals  
1.17 with intellectual disabilities;

1.18 (3) designing health promotion activities and dietary strategies for individuals with  
1.19 intellectual disabilities to meet weight management needs including but not limited to healthy  
1.20 eating, physical activity, and behavior change techniques;

2.1 (4) developing communication strategies on identifying and communicating health risks  
2.2 associated with obesity, the health benefits of physical activity, and how to make healthy  
2.3 dietary and lifestyle choices; and

2.4 (5) training opportunities for health care providers who provide services to individuals  
2.5 with intellectual disabilities on how to provide effective and targeted weight management  
2.6 of obesity through appropriate dietary intake, physical activity, health promotion, and health  
2.7 education.

2.8 (b) The commissioner shall submit recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority  
2.9 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health care policy and finance  
2.10 by February 15, 2022.

2.11 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.12 \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2022 from the general fund to the commissioner of  
2.13 health for the purposes described in section 1. This is a onetime appropriation.