

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Meslow and Others

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Analyst: Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036

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Overview

Proposes various education policy amendments.

Section

- 1** **Departments of state.** Strikes a reference to the department of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the department of education.
- 2** **Establishment.** Strikes a reference establishing the department of children, families and learning and inserts a reference establishing the department of education.
- 3** **Commissioner.** Strikes a reference to the commissioner of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the commissioner of education.
- 4** **Department.** Strikes a reference to the department of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the department of education.
- 5** **Commissioner.** Strikes a reference to the commissioner of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the commissioner of education.
- 6** **Department.** Strikes a reference to the department of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the department of education.
- 7** **Department of education.** Strikes a reference to the department of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the department of education.
- 8** **Commissioner.** Strikes a reference to the commissioner of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the commissioner of education.
- 9** **Department.** Strikes a reference to the department of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the department of education.
- 10** **Middle school.** Redefines middle school to mean a school giving an approved course of study in a minimum of two, instead of three consecutive grades between grades 5 and 9.

Section

- 11** **Abstinence until marriage.** Requires a school district that provides a program to students for preventing and reducing the risk of sexually transmitted infections and diseases to also provide students with curriculum on and instruction in abstinence until marriage. Requires the curriculum and instruction to be premised on risk avoidance.
- 12** **Notice requirements for student surveys and similar instruments.** (a) Requires school districts to obtain prior written informed consent from a student's parent before administering a student survey, assessment, analysis, evaluation or similar instrument that reveals any of the following information about the student or the student's family: political affiliations or beliefs; mental or psychological problems; sexual behavior or attitudes; illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of another individual with whom a student has a close family relationship; legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs; or income-related information.
- (b) Requires a school district, when seeking a parent's consent, to make a copy of the instrument readily available to the parent and to identify the information listed in paragraph (a) that the instrument reveals.
- (c) Makes civil remedies available to a parent seeking to compel a school district to comply with this section.
- 13** **Policies to be established.** Allows a school district to include in its student discipline policy a provision to allow the district, in consultation with a student's parent, to assign a student to an area learning center or provide other alternative educational services, consistent with district policy.
- Strikes a requirement that the DCFL commissioner actively encourage and assist districts to cooperatively establish alternative educational services to pupils who are dismissed for engaging in dangerous, disruptive or violent behavior.
- 14** **Variances.** (b) To meet the needs of students enrolled in an alternative education program, allows the board of teaching to permit a licensed teacher teaching in an alternative education program to instruct students in a content area for which the teacher is not licensed.
- 15** **Permission to substitute teach.** (b) Allows the board of teaching to issue a lifetime qualified short-call substitute teaching license to a person who: (1) applies to the board, was a qualified teacher while holding a continuing five-year license issued by the board and receives a retirement annuity; (2) holds an out-of-state teaching license and receives a retirement annuity as a result of the person's teaching experience; or (3) held a continuing five-year license issued by the board, taught at least three years in an accredited nonpublic school in Minnesota and receives a retirement annuity as a result to the person's teaching experience. Exempts a person holding a lifetime qualified short-call substitute teaching license from having to complete continuing education clock hours. Allows a person holding this license to reapply for a continuing five-year license and requires the person to again complete continuing education clock hours one school year after receiving the continuing five-year license.
- 16** **District verification of teacher licenses.** Strikes a requirement that teachers file a certified copy of their teaching license in the employing school district. Requires employing school districts and charter schools to use the Minnesota education licensing system available on the department of children, families and learning website to verify that a teacher is fully licensed.
- 17** **Improving student access to services supporting academic success.** (a) Directs school

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districts and the department of children, families and learning to work to improve students' educational achievement, provide for student safety, and enhance students' physical, emotional and social well-being by providing access to licensed support services.

(b) Directs school districts and the department of children, families and learning to seek additional funds for this purpose, including medical assistance reimbursements, local collaborative time study funds, federal funds, public health funds and dedicated funds.

(c) Directs school districts and the department of children, families and learning to consider nationally recommended staff to student ratios when working to improve students' access to licensed support services. Lists recommended licensed staff to student ratios for school nurses, school social workers, school psychologists, elementary and secondary school counselors and school chemical health counselors. Directs school districts to develop a student services team based on district needs.

18 School boards may require fees. Allows a school board under the public school fee law to charge a charter school for transporting charter school students who participate in the extracurricular activities of their resident district.

19 Board control of extracurricular activities. (a) Makes all resident students enrolled in a charter school eligible to participate in a district's extracurricular activities on the same basis as public school students enrolled in the district's schools. Requires charter school students interested in participating in the extracurricular activities to meet the academic and student conduct requirements of the charter school and the resident district.

(f) Allows school districts to charge charter schools a proportionate share of the direct and indirect costs of the extracurricular activities not covered by student fees.

20 Student training. Strikes certain specific components of school bus safety training for students. Requires students in grades 9 and 10 to be trained to properly operate a motor vehicle in proximity to a school bus. Requires the district transportation safety director to certify to the superintendent instead of the commissioner that students received school bus safety training. Requires school districts to provide K-3 students with school bus safety training twice during the school year.

21 Model training program. Strikes certain specific components of the commissioner's model school bus safety training program.

22 Comprehensive policy. Strikes certain specific content of a school district's student transportation policy.

23 State and local requirements. Makes a charter school subject to the provisions governing the participation of charter school students in the extracurricular activities of their resident district.

24 Student planning. Requires a school district to inform students and their parents about the learning year program.

25 Appointment and duties. Strikes a reference placing the department under the administrative control of the commissioner of children, families and learning and inserts a reference to the commissioner of education.

26 General supervision over public schools and educational agencies. Strikes a reference directing the commissioner of children, families and learning to adopt goals and exercise general supervision over education in Minnesota and inserts a reference to the commissioner of education.

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- 27 Stop required.** Exempts a type III school bus from the requirement to stop at railroad grade crossings.
- 28 Certification.** In addition to a body manufacturer, requires a school bus dealer or certified Minnesota commercial vehicle inspector who is also an employee of an organization purchasing a school bus to certify to the department of public safety that the product meets state standards.
- 29 Identification.** Strikes certain specific sign requirements.
- 30 Annual evaluation and license verification.** Strikes a requirement that specified individuals certify that a school bus driver meets certain training competencies.
- 31 Pilot project to evaluate parental involvement policies and strategies.**

Subd. 1. District and school site policy evaluation. Permits school boards, with the participation of a parent involvement review committee, to implement a two-year pilot project to evaluate parental involvement policies and strategies.

Subd. 2. Parent involvement review committees. Directs a participating school board and interested school sites to allow parent involvement review committee(s) composed of teachers and parents to evaluate the ability of parental involvement programs and strategies to involve parents in meaningful ways in the educational process. Requires a majority of the committee board to be parents of enrolled students. Requires school districts to assist school site committees.

Subd. 3. Notification of participation; notice to parents. Requires participating school districts to notify the commissioner. Allows the commissioner to assist districts, upon request, to develop and implement a district or school committee.

Subd. 4. Report. Requires district and school committees to report on the effectiveness of local parental involvement programs to the school board and make annual recommendations by March 1. Directs the school board to transmit a summary of findings and recommendations to the commissioner, who may use the information to modify guidelines and model plans.

Makes this section effective immediately and applicable for the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years.

- 32 Revisor's instruction.** Directs the revisor to renumber two sections of law, change the term "children, families and learning" to "education" and codify a section of 2001 session law allowing parents to review statewide tests and assessments and their students' answer sheets after submitting a written request to the commissioner.
- 33 Repealer.** Repeals the provision that:

- ▶ abolishes the commissioner and department of education and transfers employees to the department of children, families and learning (section 119A.01, subdivision 1)
- ▶ dedicates the third week of school as school bus safety week (section 123B.90, subdivision 1)
- ▶ requires a "MN" designation in the body serial number of certain buses (section 169.441, subdivision 4)