

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

The 2003 Legislature established a new procedure to fund on-line learning courses. In summary, funding amounts depend on whether the student was previously enrolled in the public school system and whether the on-line learning course is provided by the serving school district or a different school district or charter school. Funding for students not previously enrolled in the public school system is capped at \$1 million for fiscal year 2004 and \$1.25 million for fiscal year 2005. As a result, only a portion of the students interested in taking on-line courses receive funding for those courses.

This bill eliminates the two-tiered funding approach and funds all on-line pupils in the same manner as pupils enrolled in ordinary education programs.

Section

- 1** **Financial arrangements.** Removes the limitation that a student participating in an on-line course must have been enrolled in a Minnesota public school during the previous year in order to generate funding through the state's general funding program. Eliminates the separate funding stream for pupils taking on-line courses and includes these pupils in the regular general education funding program.
- 2** **Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.095, subdivision 9, effective for revenue for fiscal year 2005. This section would not be needed if section 1 passes because on-line pupils would generate funding under the general education revenue program.