

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Authorizing the education commissioner to adopt rules to implement K-12 science and social studies standards

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Overview

The 2003 Legislature repealed the profile of learning and, among other standards and accountability changes, directed the education commissioner to adopt K-12 academic standards in language arts, math, and arts for the 2003-2004 school year that were identical to standards documents agreed to by the legislature. This bill proposes to use a very similar process to develop science and social studies standards and authorize the commissioner to adopt those standards in rule. The bill directs the commissioner to implement the science standards for all students beginning in the 2004-2005 school year and to implement the social studies standards for all students beginning in the 2005-2006 school year.

Section

- 1** **Rulemaking.** Authorizes the education commissioner to use an expedited process to adopt rules for implementing core K-12 academic standards in science and social studies. Requires language arts, math, and arts academic standards to be implemented for all students beginning in the 2003-2004 school year, science academic standards to be implemented for all students beginning in the 2004-2005 school year, and social studies academic standards to be implemented for all students beginning in the 2005-2006 school year.
- 2** **State must affirm No Child Left Behind Act.** Requires the education commissioner by February 15, 2005, to revoke the state plan for implementing NCLB unless the state enacts legislation affirming Minnesota's intent to implement NCLB and the federal government abolishes the federal department of education by that date.

Section

- 3 Minnesota's high academic standards.** (a) Requires the commissioner to adopt in rule the K-12 science and social studies standards that are identical to the December 19, 2003, science standards document and the February 17, 2004, social studies standards document prepared by the Minnesota Academic Standards Committee under the auspices of the education department and specifically named in this bill.
- (b) Requires the K-12 science and social studies standards documents to be deposited with the revisor of statutes, the legislative reference library, and the state law library until the commissioner adopts the rules for implementing core K-12 academic standards in science and social studies. Directs the revisor to determine that the rules are identical to the documents deposited with it and allows the revisor to make any needed grammatical and form changes.
- Makes this section effective immediately.
- 4 K-12 social studies standards rules.** Directs the education commissioner to use the expedited rulemaking process to insert instructions about banding and make specific amendments to the substance of the social studies standards document incorporated by reference into this act.
- 5 K-12 science standards rules.** Directs the education commissioner to use the expedited rulemaking process to insert instructions about grade level designations in and make specific amendments to the substance of the science standards document incorporated by reference into this act.