

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Proposes technical and substantive amendments to the education code affecting prekindergarten through grade 12 education programs and funding.

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Article 1: General Education

- 1 **1 Reserve revenue.** Clarifies the amount of money that must be reserved by resident school districts for students who are attending area learning center programs.
- 2 **Board control of extracurricular activities.** Clarifies a reference to a manual for activity fund accounting.
- 3 **Taconite revenue.** Recognizes the full annual amount of taconite revenue that a school district receives in the fiscal year in which the February payment falls.
- 4 **Expenditures by building.** Clarifies the accounts necessary to identify revenue at each school site.
- 5 **Account transfer for statutory operating debt.** Updates terminology to reflect the current accounting terms used for unreserved general fund money.
- 6 **Operating Debt.** Updates terminology to reflect the current accounting terms used for unreserved general fund money.
- 7 **Reorganization operating debt.** Updates terminology to reflect the current accounting terms used for unreserved general fund money.
- 8 **Unreserved fund balances.** Updates terminology to reflect the current accounting terms

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- used for unreserved general fund money.
- 9 Enrollment verification.** Clarifies the general education payment for students attending an eligible program part-time under the graduation incentives program.
- 10 Aid.** Clarifies the general education payment for students participating in certain contract alternative programs.
- 11 Net unreserved general fund balance.** Updates terminology to reflect the current accounting terms used for unreserved general fund money.
- 12 Project-based average daily membership.** Creates a new category of pupil units to count students who are enrolled in project-based programs. Requires schools offering project-based programs to register with the commissioner of education, provide a minimum of one hour of teacher contact per week per project-based credit, maintain a record system that shows when each credit has been reported, and report pupil membership to the commissioner.
- 13 Taconite deductions.** Clarifies the language regarding the receipt of taconite revenue. Modifies the language to reflect that the full amount of taconite revenue is recognized in the fiscal year in which the February payment falls.
- 14 Notice to commissioner; forms.** Moves forward by one week, from January 15 to January 7, the day that each school district must notify the commissioner of education of the final certified school levies.
- 15 Taconite payment and other reductions.** Clarifies and modifies the language to reflect that the full amount of taconite revenue is recognized in the fiscal year in which the February payment falls.
- 16 Excess tax increment.** Adds a cross reference.
- 17 Census.** Clarifies a cross reference. Removes language regarding the determination of the population of a city.
- 18 County auditor to fix amount of levy.** Corrects an obsolete cross reference.
- 19 Distribution of excess taxes on captured net tax capacity.** Clarifies language regarding the determination of the local shares of excess taxes.
- 20 Repealer.** Repeals obsolete statutes, including:
- 123B.83, subd. 1. Reducing statutory operating debt for districts in statutory operating debt as of June 30, 1977;
 - 126C.42, subd. 1. Levy authority for districts in statutory operating debt as of June 30, 1977;
 - 126C.42, subd. 4. Levy authority for districts in statutory operating debt as of June 30, 1992.

Article 2: Education Excellence

- 1 1 Definitions.** Amends the definitions of "instruction" and "curriculum" to encompass state and district academic standards and programs.
- 2 Adopting policies.** Requires school districts to have an adopted written policy that includes instructional goals encompassing: best practices, district and school curriculum and educational achievement for all student subgroups; a process for evaluating students'

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progress toward meeting academic standards; a system for periodically evaluating instruction and curriculum; a plan for improving student achievement; and an education effectiveness plan that integrates instruction, curriculum and technology.

3 District advisory committee. Requires school boards to establish a district advisory committee to ensure community participation in planning and improving district academic standards. Requires the advisory committee to recommend to the school board rigorous academic standards and student achievement goals and measures.

4 Building team. Allows a school to establish a building team to develop and implement an effectiveness plan to improve student achievement. Directs the team to advise the school board and the district advisory committee about developing an instruction and curriculum improvement plan that aligns assessment of student progress in meeting district academic standards, among other things.

5 Report. (a) Requires school boards to annually report to the education commissioner on student achievement goals for meeting state academic standards and school district improvement plans that include staff development goals, among other items.

(b) Allows school districts to publish the report by electronic means if the public is notified and copies of the report are available upon request.

(c) Changes the title of the report to refer to student achievement instead of student performance.

6 Biennial evaluation; assessment program. Requires school districts to report on a biennial basis to the education commissioner on student achievement results compared to previous years.

7 Reports; content. Requires school districts to transmit electronic reports to the education commissioner on incidents involving the use or possession of dangerous weapons in school zones. Requires the commissioner to provide an electronic reporting format.

8 Reports; filing requirements. Requires public schools annually by July 31, but no longer also by February 1, to submit electronic reports to the education commissioner on incidents involving the use or possession of dangerous weapons in school zones. Strikes the requirement that the commissioner annually report information to the criminal and juvenile information policy group.

9 Report to the commissioner of education. Requires school boards to report student exclusions and expulsions through the education department's electronic reporting system. Requires the reports to include students' age, grade, gender, race and special education status.

10 Effective reading instruction. Defines effective reading instruction to include a program or collection of instructional practices based on reliable evidence showing that when the programs or practices are used, students achieve satisfactory reading progress.

11 License and rules. (o) Requires the board of teaching to adopt licensure rules for qualified candidates to teach chemistry, physics, biology and earth and space science and for a science teacher to teach in a new science content area or level if the teacher is a licensed science teacher and receives a qualifying score on a test on a science subject other than the teacher's current science field or level. Makes the teacher seeking added licensure fields responsible for the actual test costs.

12 Reading strategies. (a) Requires teacher preparation programs to include research-based best practices in reading that enable a licensure candidate to teach reading in the candidates

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content fields.

(b) Requires elementary teacher preparation programs to require instruction in reading programs that teach students to read using foundational knowledge, practices, strategies, interventions and remediations that enable all students to make continuous progress toward becoming proficient readers.

- 13 **Contract; duties.** Strikes language requiring school districts to make an annual report to the education commissioner identifying district expenditures needed to ensure that 80 percent of students pass the basic standards tests in eighth grade, the highest student pass rates the district expects to attain by grade 12, the expenditures needed to attain those pass rates and the extent to which the district is cross subsidizing special education basic skills and general education revenue.
- 14 **Financial arrangements.** Does not generate on-line average daily membership for students enrolled in an instructional program where at least 40 percent of the instructional time occurs in a school's facilities. Directs the education department to calculate average daily membership for such students under the statutory section governing average daily membership.
- Makes this section immediately effective.
- 15 **Formation of a school.** Requires the commissioner to approve or disapprove a charter school sponsor's proposed authorization within 90 days, instead of within 60 days.
- 16 **General education revenue.** Amends the general education revenue formula. Makes the general education revenue for each extended time marginal cost pupil unit equal \$4,378.
- 17 **Program described.** Prohibits a charter school from receiving aid, grants or revenue that replace levy revenue.
- 18 **Program described.** Clarifies that American Indian education programs are available in charter schools enrolling American Indian children.
- 19 **Grants; procedures.** Clarifies that charter schools are eligible to provide American Indian education programs for which grants are available. Strikes language requiring the education commissioner to submit proposals to the Advisory Committee on American Indian Education Programs for its grant recommendations.
- 20 **Awards.** Strikes a requirement that the education commissioner consult with the Minnesota Indian Education Committee and also language that the Minnesota Indian Education Committee will advise on scholarship types and amounts, including scholarships for more than five years.
- 21 **Cross-subsidy reports.** Directs the education commissioner annually by January 30 to estimate and report school districts' costs to cross subsidize special education and basic skills programs with general education revenue.

Article 3: Special Programs

- 1 1 **Parent advisory councils.** Includes a parent of a disabled nonpublic school student or a nonpublic school employee on a school district's special education advisory council when a nonpublic school is located in the district. Requires the council to meet at least annually.
- 2 **State interagency coordinating council.** Directs the interagency coordinating council to make policy recommendations to the governor and specified commissioners on the date that the Minnesota Part C Annual Performance Report is submitted to the federal government,

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instead of by September 1.

- 3 **Advisory committee.** Directs the education commissioner to appoint a five-member advisory committee of library users to advise the Minnesota Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped staff on long-range plans and services. Causes the committee not to expire.

Article 4: Facilities and Technology

- 1 1 **Bond Authorization.** Sets a timeline of at least 60 days before a school board issues alternative facilities bonds for the district to publish notice of the intended projects and any review and comment by the commissioner on the projects.
- 2 **Levy authorization.** Sets a timeline of at least 20 days before a school board certifies an annual levy for alternative facilities projects not funded through the sale of bonds for the district to publish notice of the intended projects and any review and comment by the commissioner on the projects.
- 3 **Uses of the account.** Requires that any revenue raised through the capital project referendum account (formerly called the down payment revenue program) be reserved and used only for qualifying capital expenditures.
- 4 **Review and comment.** Makes clear that alternative facilities building projects are subject to the commissioner of education's review and comment process.
- 5 **Publication.** Makes clear that publication requirements for alternative facilities projects are the ones in sections 1 and 2 of this article.

Article 5: Early Childhood Family Support

- 1 **Use of revenue restricted.** Adds a cross reference to define early childhood family education revenue and limit administrative costs.
- 2 **Use of aid.** Adds a cross reference to define early childhood family education revenue and limit administrative costs.
- 3 **Use of the revenue.** Excepts revenue allocated for prekindergarten programs from the requirement to reserve basic skills revenue for meeting the educational needs of underprepared pupils who are performing below the appropriate grade level.
- 4 **Building allocation.** Allows school districts to allocate up to ten percent of their compensatory revenue to support prekindergarten programs.
- 5 **Prekindergarten programs.** Requires school districts to use the compensatory revenue they allocate to support prekindergarten programs for resident and nonresident children ages 3 1/2 to entering kindergarten from families eligible for free or reduced price school meals. Allows school districts to contract with private preschools and other program providers.

Article 6: Prevention

- 1 **Definitions.** Clarifies that "commissioner" for purposes of the lead abatement program refers to the commissioner of health, not the commissioner of education.
- 2 **Grants; administration.** Makes a technical change requiring the commissioner of health, who administers the lead abatement program, to consult with the housing finance agency director when awarding grants.
- 3 **Applicants.** Makes a technical change requiring the commissioner of health, who

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administers the lead abatement program, to consult with boards of health for secondary prevention purposes.

4 **Testing and evaluation.** Makes a technical change requiring the commissioner of health, who administers the lead abatement program, to collect data and conduct evaluations.

5 **Revisor's instruction.** Directs the revisor to recode the lead abatement program in chapter 144, instead of 119A.