

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Advisory task force on accelerated high school science and math programs

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Overview

Establishes an advisory task force to make recommendations to the legislature on delivering accelerated technology science and math programs to eligible students throughout Minnesota.

Section

1 Advisory task force on options for accelerated K-12 technology science and math programs throughout Minnesota. (a) Establishes an advisory task force to recommend to the legislature alternatives for delivering accelerated technology science and math programs to eligible students throughout Minnesota. Requires recommendations for cost effective, efficiently implemented and operated accelerated technology science and math instruction for students in grades 6 through 12 and accepts similar recommendations for other elementary grade students and out-of-school and summer school instruction.

(b) Requires the task force to: (1) evaluate and compare at least five alternatives for delivering accelerated technology science and math programs to Minnesota students; (2) identify and evaluate possible members for a consortium of qualified entities to help implement accelerated technology science and math programs in Minnesota; (3) evaluate and compare at least three alternatives for preparing and assisting qualified educational leaders to help implement accelerated technology science and math programs in Minnesota; and (4) identify and evaluate postsecondary career and technical education programs that offer accelerated technology science and math instruction.

Section

(c) Directs the education commissioner to appoint a 17-member advisory task force composed of specified members. Directs the commissioner to try to ensure geographical balance when making the appointments. Prohibits task force members from receiving compensation but allows reimbursement for expenses related to serving on the task force. Allows the task force to receive gifts for the benefit of the task force. Allows the task force to conduct meetings electronically. Makes task force members' terms and other task force matters subject to the statutory section (Minn. Stat. § 15.059) governing the operation of advisory councils and committees. Requires the task force by January 30, 2007, to report its recommendations to the legislature.

(d) Directs the education commissioner to provide the task force with technical, fiscal and other support services upon request. Directs the commissioner to use current operating budget funds to pay support service costs.

(e) Causes the task force to expire on June 20, 2007.

Makes this section immediately effective.