

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill is the Governor's 2008 Education Finance Recommendations.

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Article 1: General Education

Overview

This article establishes a new process for the review of continuing contract teachers, creates a new K-12 tuition reciprocity process for students attending schools in another state, and modifies the K-12 education appropriations that were part of the package of disaster assistance payments to Southeastern Minnesota.

- 1 Review for continuing contract teachers.** Requires a school board and the exclusive representative of the teachers in each district to develop an annual process and evaluation for all continuing contract teachers. Requires the process to be aligned to "best instructional practices" in teaching and learning. Requires a district that is participating in the Qcomp program to use its approved educational improvement plan as the basis for this annual evaluation. Allows peer review for continuing contract teachers to be used to meet the requirement of this subdivision.
- 2 Pupils in adjoining states.** Creates an alternative method for transferring revenue between

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Minnesota school districts and non-Minnesota school districts for cross-border open enrolled students.

- 3 Tuition payments.** Amends the current K-12 tuition payment statute to include an option for negotiated K-12 reciprocity agreements between Minnesota and neighboring states. Requires all payments for cross-border students to be made under the reciprocity statute if the state has entered into a reciprocity agreement with a neighboring state.
- 4 Effective if reciprocal.** Eliminates the existing applicability language specific only to the State of South Dakota .
- 5 Appeal to the commissioner.** Modifies the authority for the commissioner to set a tuition rate for cross-border open enrolled students in cases where no K-12 tuition reciprocity has been established. Modifies the current process that authorizes a parent to appeal a tuition amount established by a school district to the commissioner of education by changing the commissioner's role from agreeing to a tuition rate to setting the tuition rate.
- 6 Reciprocity with adjoining states.**

Subd. 1. Agreements. Authorizes the Minnesota commissioner of education to enter into an agreement with the designated authority from an adjoining state to establish an enrollment options program. Requires the agreement to:

- apply only to students who are not residents of Minnesota who live in adjoining states;
- set negotiated and equal reciprocal tuition amounts;
- adjust revenue amounts between states based on the number of students from each state attending school in the other state;
- establish application procedures;
- list any reasons why an applicant student from another state may be denied enrollment in the serving state; and
- ensure that no Minnesota district is responsible for providing transportation to a resident student who attends school in another state.

Subd. 2. Pupil accounting. Requires Minnesota school districts to include a cross-border nonresident student in their pupil counts as if the student were a non-resident student from another Minnesota school district. Allows Minnesota school districts to count resident students who attend school in an adjoining state in the Minnesota district's resident pupil count in the same manner as in-state open enrollment students.

Subd. 3. Procedures. Grants the Department of Education authority to collect data and transfer payments according to this section. Applies the K-12 reciprocity statute to all transfer of students between participating states. Allows aid payments to be made under section 127A.45. Creates an exemption from this process to a school district in another state that has fewer than 150 pupils if that state also grants the same exemption (this exemption is intended to avoid triggering any mandatory school consolidation statute in neighboring states).

- 7 Exception.** Creates an exemption to the tuition payments statute in cases where students are transferring between adjoining states according to the new K-12 tuition reciprocity

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statute.

- 8 Adjustments for tuition reciprocity with adjoining states.** Adjusts Minnesota's special education appropriations cap to reflect the transfers of special education tuition payments to and from adjoining states. Authorizes the receipt and disbursement of special education payments from and to adjoining states according to the K-12 reciprocity agreement with that state.
- 9 Transition revenue.** Adds a new component to transition revenue to factor in any changes in general education revenue due to the K-12 reciprocity agreement replacing a tuition billing agreement.
- 10 Transition for tuition reciprocity revenue.** Sets the new transition revenue component equal to the loss in revenue for a Minnesota school district because of the K-12 reciprocity process agreement replacing the tuition billing between the Minnesota school district and the school district in the adjoining state.
- 11 Payments to third parties.** Includes K-12 tuition reciprocity payments in the statute that requires the state to make current year aid payments to third parties.
- 12 Total appropriation.** Modifies the total appropriation made to the commissioner of education for payments to school districts adversely affected by the August 2007 floods.
- 13 ISD #239, Rushford-Peterson appropriation.** Eliminates the appropriations rider language that set aside \$250,000 for a disaster relief facilities grant to the Rushford-Peterson school district.
- 14 Disaster relief facilities grants to other districts.** Reduces the appropriation available for disaster relief facilities grants to other school districts from \$90,000 to \$14,000 (this is the amount that was actually disbursed under this clause).
- 15 Appropriations.** Appropriates \$158,000 in fiscal year 2009 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for payment to the Rushford-Peterson school district for costs associated with the floods of August 2007 (this appropriation replaces the existing appropriation that was modified in section 13).
- 16 Repealer.** Repeals the following:
- Minnesota Statutes, section 127A.45, subdivision 7a.
 - Laws 2007, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 11, subdivisions 3 and 4.

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Article: 2 Education Excellence

- 1 Minnesota virtual education program.** Authorizes the commissioner of education to create a virtual education program for teachers and students in grades six through 12. Allows the content to be developed by the department staff, content experts, licensed Minnesota teachers, licensed administrators and business representatives. Requires the courses to be aligned with Minnesota 's academic standards. Requires the commissioner to develop at least ten courses and lesson plans for the 2009-2010 school year. Requires the commissioner to place priority on science, technology, engineering, math and other advance courses. Requires the courses to be monitored and delivered by licensed Minnesota teachers. Requires schools participating in the program to submit a letter of intent to the department, allow students to participate in the program, train teachers to monitor and deliver the courses, allow students to receive graduation credit, if appropriate, for completed courses, and report student participation and completion rates to the department. Requires the commissioner to report on the progress of the program to the education committees of the legislature by October 1, 2010 .
- 2 Minnesota Teach program.**

Subd. 1. Scope and requirements. Creates an alternative to postsecondary teacher preparation programs leading to licensure. Allows program providers approved by the Board of Teaching to offer the program in the instructional fields of science, mathematics, world language, English as a second language, special education and other teacher shortage areas. Requires program applicants to have: certain minimum requirements including a bachelor's degree from a four year school; an undergraduate or graduate degree in the subject area to be taught; passed a basic skills exam in reading, writing and mathematics; passed the Praxis II subject exam for each subject area to be taught; a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher; demonstrated experience related to the subject to be taught; and an offer of employment from a district to teach in the specified subject area.

Subd. 2. Program. Defines the Minnesota Teach program as a one year program that includes a pre-induction preparation program, employs rigorous training after school or on Saturdays throughout the year, provides on-the-job mentoring, supervision and evaluation by both an experienced teacher licensed in the relevant subject area and a supervisor affiliated with the postsecondary institution providing the teacher training, conducts three evaluations of the candidate by an evaluation team, and provides a one-week intensive workshop that allows an analysis of the first year of teaching.

Subd. 3. Program approval. Requires an interested Minnesota public or private postsecondary institution to submit program proposals to the Board of Teaching. Requires the Board of Teaching to establish an advisory group to help the board approve teacher training programs consisting of the commissioner of education, superintendents, principals, teachers, and postsecondary institution representatives. Grants a school district authority to hire a professional under this training program.

Subd. 4. Eligibility license. Requires the Board of Teaching to issue to an

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applicant who successfully meets the criteria a one-year eligibility license to teach at the employing district. Requires the employing district to assign a mentor under and requires the applicant teacher and teacher mentor to meet at least weekly throughout the school year on classroom and instructional issues.

Subd. 5. Standard entrance license. Requires the Board of Teaching to issue a standard entrance license to a training program licensee who successfully completes the program under subdivision 2, successfully teaches in a classroom for one complete school year, successfully passes the Praxis II principles of learning and teaching, receives a positive recommendation from the applicant's evaluation team, and who applies to the Board of Teaching for such license.

Subd. 6. Qualified teacher. Deems a person with a valid eligibility license under subdivision 5 as a qualified teacher under section 122A.16.

3 U teach program. Authorizes the commissioner of education to establish a grant program called the U teach program. Allows any Minnesota private or public postsecondary institution to apply to the commissioner by October 1, 2008 , for a grant to become a U teach program provider. Requires a postsecondary institution that receives a U teach grant to use grant funds to recruit students enrolled in mathematics or science departments and offer these students courses in the college of education program. Allows qualifying postsecondary institutions to offer up to six courses tuition-free to participating students.

4 Teacher institute functions. Describes the functions of a teacher institute to include providing advanced training during the summer months to licensed mathematics and science teachers. Makes participating teachers eligible for graduate-level credits upon successful completion of the institute's courses. Authorizes the commissioner of education to establish the application process and criteria for admission to the teacher institute.

5 Appropriations. Appropriates the following amounts:

- \$1,000,000 for FY 2009 and later for the Minnesota virtual education program;
- \$250,000 in FY 2009 and \$1,750,000 for FY 2010 and later for the Minnesota Teach program;
- \$250,000 for FY 2009 and later for the U Teach program;
- \$400,000 for FY 2009 and later for the Principal's Leadership Institute; and
- \$2,700,000 for FY 2009 and later for math and science teacher centers and institutes.

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Article 3: State Agencies

Overview

This article imposes a four percent reduction in the appropriation to the Department of Education.

- 1 Appropriations; Department of Education.** Reduces the fiscal year 2009 appropriation to the Minnesota Department of Education by four percent (from \$22.653 million to \$21.761 million). Reduces the fiscal year 2009 set asides for the Board of Teaching and the Board of School Administrators by four percent.