— HOUSE RESEARCH — Bill Summary —

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Overview

This program provides for placement of a full- or part-time veterans assistant on most of Minnesota's higher education campuses to assist veterans in applying for the GI Bill and other educational funding for which they might qualify, as well as providing information and advice regarding enrolling, registering, transferring military credits, and other necessary information for entering into and successfully pursuing higher education.

When enacted by the 2006 Legislature, the program was scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2011, or when the total enrollment of veterans in higher educational institutions in Minnesota dropped below 4,000. During the past Legislative Session, the sunset date was extended by one year, through FY12. This bill would eliminate the sunset entirely, including the alternative numerical criterion for terminating the program at some point in the future.

The growing number of veterans currently enrolled in Minnesota higher educational institutions is estimated as now being in excess of 12,000.

Note: The Veterans Higher Education Assistance Program is administered by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), and is funded by means of a one-time appropriation that is due to expire at the end of FY11. This bill does not provide funding availability beyond the current biennium, ending June 30, 2011.