

Subject Higher Education: Students with Disabilities (“RISE” Act)

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Overview

This bill repeals and replaces the current law requiring public postsecondary institutions to have policies regarding assistance and support for students with disabilities. The new law under the bill applies more broadly to higher education institutions in Minnesota, requires institutions to give more information to students, and has greater detail about what documentation a student may submit to establish that the student has a disability. These changes are effective January 1, 2025.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Students with disabilities; accommodations; general requirements.
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Subd. 1. Short title. Provides a short title, the “Minnesota Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act.”

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines key terms. The scope of application is set within the definition of “institution of higher education,” which includes public postsecondary institutions, Tribal colleges, and private institutions that receive federal funding. The University of Minnesota is requested to comply.

Subd. 3. Students with disabilities policy; documentation; dissemination of information. Requires institutional policies allowing a student with a disability to self-disclose (with supporting documentation listed in subdivision 4) to the institution. Mandates dissemination of the policy by the institution.

Subd. 4. Establishment of reasonable accommodation; documentation. Requires institutions to engage in an “interactive process” with the student to establish reasonable accommodations. Lists forms of documentation that can establish that a student has a disability.

Section **Description**

Subd. 5. Higher education requirements for students with disabilities. Places various obligations on institutions regarding interactions with students who have disabilities and provides certain rights to students with disabilities.

2 Repealer.

Repeals the existing statute requiring public postsecondary institutions to have policies regarding assistance and support for students with disabilities.



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