

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Minnesota operates residential academies for deaf and blind students in Faribault. The academies are both public schools and state institutions and annually serve more than 500 students through residential programs, summer school, preschool programs, and outreach efforts. In fiscal year 2011, the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind enrolled approximately 50 full-time pupils, and the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf enrolled approximately 138 full-time pupils.

The academies' budgets are primarily funded through direct state appropriations. The resident school district of a student attending the State Academies for the Deaf and the Blind counts the student for general education revenue and passes that funding on to the state academies.

This bill authorizes the state to sell and issue \$4,350,000 in general obligation bonds to fund capital improvements at the Minnesota State Academies.

1 **Minnesota State Academies Capital Improvements.**

Subd. 1. Appropriation. Appropriates \$4,350,000 from the state bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of administration for a capital improvement projects to the Minnesota State Academies. Projects include:

- asset preservation on both campuses - \$3,000,000;
- demolish Frechette Hall and the "old laundry" - \$450,000;
- create a parking lot by Lauritsen gym - \$400,000; and
- build an independent living structure on the campus for students who are between 18 and 21 years of age in collaboration with the carpentry class of South Central College of Faribault - \$500,000.

Subd. 2. Bond sale. Requires the commissioner of management and budget to sell and issue \$4,350,000 in state general obligation bonds to fund the capital improvements authorized in subdivision 1.