

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Nornes and others

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Analyst: Tim Strom

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Overview

Minnesota's dual enrollment programs, programs that allow a student to receive high school and college course credit for the same class, have evolved over the last 30 years since the postsecondary enrollment options (PSEO) program was first passed by the legislature in 1985. One common form of the program is referred to as courses according to agreement, or concurrent enrollment.

Under the concurrent enrollment program, the school district and the postsecondary institution (PSI) enter into a contract for services for a dual enrollment course. Current law appropriates \$4 million per year to help defray costs associated with concurrent enrollment program.

Instructors in concurrent enrollment programs are most often high school teachers specially trained by the sponsoring PSI to teach the course according to the standards established by the PSI. In the past year, a number of questions have been raised about whether the body that accredits colleges and universities in Minnesota may require high school teachers teaching concurrent enrollment classes under the direction of the PSI to hold, at minimum, a master's degree in the field in which the instructors are teaching concurrent enrollment courses.

This bill appropriates \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 to the Department of Education for a grant to the Lakes Country Service Cooperative to operate a continuing education program for concurrent enrollment teachers. Requires the program be provided jointly by the Lakes Country Service Cooperative, the Northwest Service Cooperative, and Minnesota State University-Moorhead.

Section

Requires MSU-Moorhead to develop an online curriculum to allow teachers to attain graduate credits at reduced credit rates. Grants priority in the program to teachers employed by a district that is a member of either of the two Service Cooperatives.

- 1** **Continuing education program.** Creates a continuing education program for concurrent enrollment teachers in Northwestern Minnesota. Requires the program be provided jointly by the Lakes Country Service Cooperative, the Northwest Service Cooperative, and Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Requires MSU-Moorhead to develop an online curriculum to allow teachers to attain graduate credits at reduced credit rates. Grants priority in the program to teachers employed by a district that is a member of either of the two Service Cooperatives. Requires the partnership to submit an annual progress report to the legislature, commissioner of education, and the Board of Trustees of MnSCU.

- 2** **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 to the Department of Education for a grant to Lakes Country Service Cooperative for concurrent enrollment teacher training under section 1. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2021.