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Authors: Nornes

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Overview

This is the 2018 higher education omnibus bill. Article 1 contains supplemental FY2019 appropriations. Article 2 contains various changes to higher education policy. Article 3 contains the Office of Higher Education's policy bills.

Article 1 – Appropriations

Section

- 1 **Higher education appropriations.** Defines terms for this article. Specifies that the amounts appropriated are added to the appropriations in the 2017 higher education omnibus law (Laws 2017, chapter 89, article 1) unless otherwise specified.
- 2 **Appropriations to the Office of Higher Education (OHE).** Provides a total of \$500,000 in onetime appropriations to OHE for FY2019. The specific purposes and amounts are as follows:
 - State grants: \$350,000
 - Agricultural educators loan forgiveness program: \$100,000
 - Student loan debt counseling grant (see article 2, section 3): \$50,000

Section

3 Appropriations to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnState). Provides a total of \$5,500,000 in onetime appropriations to MnState for FY2019. The specific purposes and amounts are as follows:

- Cyber security programs at Metropolitan State University: \$5,000,000

From H.F. 3639 (Albright)

- Workforce development scholarships: \$500,000

Article 2 – Higher Education Policy

1 Sexual assault policies: victims' rights. Expands the list of provisions that must be included in an institution's sexual assault policy by adding a requirement the policy provide for notice to a sexual assault victim regarding available legal resources.

From H.F. 3415, as amended (Nornes)

2 Sexual assault policies: data collection and reporting. Requires the University of Minnesota to collect statistical data on incidents of sexual harassment. The types of data that must be collected are coextensive with the current requirements for sexual assault data. The statistical data on sexual harassment incidents must be reported to the legislature by October 1 of each year.

From H.F. 2669, the first engrossment (Anderson, S.)

3 Student loan debt counseling. Establishes a program administered by the Office of Higher Education to provide grants to qualified organizations offering student loan debt repayment counseling.

Subd. 1. Grant. Permits an organization receiving a grant to offer counseling to those capable of being served with available appropriations. Sets a goal that a grantee provide at least two counseling sessions to 75 percent of borrowers receiving counseling. Establishes that the purpose of the counseling is to enable borrowers to understand their loan and repayment options, manage loan repayments, and develop a workable budget.

Subd. 2. Qualified debt counseling organization. Defines a qualified debt counseling organization as one that has experience in student loan counseling, employs certified financial loan counselors, and is based in Minnesota and has offices in multiple rural and metropolitan locations.

Subd. 3. Grant application and award. Requires that applications be made in a form and manner specified by the commissioner. Describes the components that must be included on the application. Requires the commissioner to select one grant recipient every two years. The grant recipient would receive funding for both years of the biennium.

Subd. 4. Program evaluation. Requires a grant recipient to submit a report to the commissioner of higher education every two years. Specifies data elements to be included in the report.

Section

Subd. 5. Report to legislature. Requires the commissioner of higher education to submit a report on the program to the higher education committees of the legislature every two years.

From H.F. 794 (Haley)

- 4 Spinal cord injury and TBI research grant program: account created.** Creates a separate account in the special revenue fund for spinal cord and TBI research grants.

From the Governor's bill, H.F. 4361 (Nornes)

- 5 - 6 Legislative commission on regent selection.** Replaces the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) with a Legislative Commission on Regent Selection. The new commission would consist of four members from each chamber, two from each party. The commission would be responsible for recommending one-to-three candidates per vacancy to the joint legislative committee.

From H.F. 3372, the first engrossment (Nornes)

- 7 MNSCU two-year public college program.** Reduces by \$1 million the FY2018 appropriation to the MnState two-year public college program grants (a.k.a. the college occupational scholarship pilot program). These are surplus funds which are redistributed in Article 1 of the bill.

From the Governor's bill, H.F. 4361 (Nornes)

- 8 Spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury research grant program.** Amends the 2017 appropriation for the spinal cord and TBI research grant program so that the funds are transferred into the new special revenue fund account created by section 4 of the bill.

From the Governor's bill, H.F. 4361 (Nornes)

- 9 Affordable textbook plan and report.** Requires MnState to develop a plan to increase the use of affordable textbooks and instructional materials. The plan must be submitted to the legislature by January 15, 2020.

From H.F. 3985, as amended (Daniels)

- 10 Appeal process for sexual misconduct findings involving University of Minnesota employees.** Requests the Board of Regents to update their sexual misconduct policies to provide university employees and their victims a right of appeal from findings of the university's Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, and timely notice of those appeal rights.

From H.F. 2669, the first engrossment (Anderson, S.)

Section

Article 3 – Higher Education Policy

Unless otherwise noted, sections within this article are from the Office of Higher Education’s policy bill, H.F. 3900 (Nornes).

- 1 **P-20 Education Partnership: powers and duties; report.** The P-20 Education Partnership is an organization led by the statewide education groups in Minnesota. Its purpose is to create an integrated education system, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Clarifying changes in this section relate to the ability to the partnerships assessment of early childhood information contained in the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS).
 - 2 **Teacher candidate grants: eligibility.** Clarifies how a grant applicant may show intent to teach in a shortage area.
 - 3 **Teacher candidate grants: administration; repayment.** Eliminates the direction to the commission to establish a process for enforcing repayment responsibilities for applicants who do not complete their service requirements.
 - 4 **Eligible student definition.** Moves the definition of “eligible student” from § 136A.1701 and combines it with the existing “eligible student” in § 136A.15, the general definition section for student loan programs.
 - 5 **Designation.** Corrects a cross-reference.
 - 6 **Rules.** Amends the subdivision regarding OHE’s rules and policies for administering student loan programs.
 - 7 - 9 **Student loan programs.** Corrects cross-references.
 - 10 **Classification of data.** Adds a cross-reference to the student loan refinancing statute.
 - 11 **Repayment of loans.** Strikes repayment procedures provided for supplemental loans under § 136A.1701, inserts a cross-reference to OHE’s general rules and policies for student loan programs in § 136A.16.
 - 12 **Legislative oversight.** Requires OHE to annually report to the legislature on the balances of the loan forgiveness program accounts in the special revenue fund.
- New language*
- 13 **Creation of account.** Specifies that the aviation degree loan forgiveness account is in the special revenue fund.
- From H.F. 3051, as amended (Nornes)*
- 14 **Account established.** Specifies that the teacher shortage loan forgiveness repayment account is in the special revenue fund.

From H.F. 3051, as amended (Nornes)

Section

- 15 Establishment; administration.** Adds statutory language creating a large animal veterinarian loan forgiveness account in the special revenue fund. Minnesota Management and Budget has already established this account under its existing statutory authority.
- From H.F. 3051, as amended (Nornes)*
- 16 Additional security.** In the Minnesota Private and Out-of-State Public Postsecondary Education Act, provides a calculation for the amount of a surety bond required for new schools that have been granted conditional approval.
- 17 Bond.** Corrects technical accounting terminology.
- 18 Catalog, brochure, or electronic display.** In the Private Career School Act, adds the school's required disclosure to students regarding the mandated student complaint process to the list of information that a school must provide to OHE.
- 19 Disclosure.** In the student complaints section of the Private Career School Act, adds a subdivision requiring a school publish information regarding its mandated student complaint process.
- 20 Emergency assistance for postsecondary students.** Clarifies that the program is limited to Minnesota schools.
- 21 - 24 Appropriations riders.** Specifies that the 2018 appropriations for the following programs are for transfer to their respective accounts in the special revenue fund:
- the Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program;
 - the Large Animal Veterinarian Loan Forgiveness Program;
 - the Agricultural Educators Loan Forgiveness Program; and
 - the Aviation Degree Loan Forgiveness Program.
- From H.F. 3051, as amended (Nornes)*
- 25 Teacher candidate grants: ongoing appropriation.** Specifies that the onetime FY2017 general fund appropriation of \$2.8 million to OHE for the teacher candidate grants (contained in Laws 2016, chapter 189) is available until June 30, 2019.
- From H.F. 3051, as amended (Nornes)*
- 26 Repealer.** Technical change repealing certain definitions relating to student loan programs.