

List of Language Differences

H.F. 2073 – Omnibus Higher Education Budget and Policy Conference Committee

Article 1: Higher Education Appropriations¹

Side by Side Page	House Lines	Senate Lines	Comparison	Description
R2-3	3.7-28	3.8-34	<i>Different</i>	<p>OHE — Tribal College Grants</p> <p><i>The House and the Senate use slightly different names for this appropriation. The Senate also includes a requirement that tribal operational funding “supplement, not supplant” existing funding.</i></p>
R5	n/a	5.17-20	<i>Different</i>	<p>OHE — College Possible</p> <p><i>The Senate includes a requirement that funds be allocated proportionately between greater Minnesota and the metro area. This requirement has been included in prior omnibus acts.</i></p>
R7-8	7.17-8.2	7.24-9.3	<i>Different</i>	<p>OHE — Emergency Assistance for Postsecondary Students</p> <p><i>The riders in the House language are unchanged from previous omnibus acts. The Senate does not include the matching basis provision and requires institutions to return any unused funds to OHE at the end of the biennium. Also, the Senate specifies the amounts appropriated to the Minnesota State system, the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Tribal Colleges. Further, the Senate specifies that the commissioner must not distribute funds under this section until their methods for distributing the grants and reporting requirements are approved.</i></p>
R10-11	10.8-14	11.9-22	<i>Different</i>	<p>OHE — Hunger-Free Campus Grants</p> <p><i>The riders in the House language are unchanged from the previous omnibus act. The Senate includes a onetime appropriation in fiscal year 2024 for higher education institutions to provide equipment necessary to operate an on-campus food pantry. The commissioner shall establish an application process for distributing the grant funds.</i></p>
R13	13.5-7	14.34-15.2	<i>Different</i>	<p>OHE — Inclusive Higher Education</p> <p><i>The House allows OHE to use 3% of the appropriation for administrative costs (\$30K/year). The Senate allows OHE to use 5% of the amount transferred in paragraph (b) for administrative costs (\$37.5K/year).</i></p>
R15	15.1-19	11.25-12.6	<i>Different</i>	<p>OHE — Foster Care Grant</p>

¹This section does not include language differences that only represent differences in spending, including appropriations made by only one chamber.

Side by Side Page	House Lines	Senate Lines	Comparison	Description
				<i>The House makes this an application-based competitive grant, while the Senate designates the grant recipient. The Senate also includes this grant within the larger appropriation for the Fostering Independence Higher Education Grant program, while the House makes it a separate appropriation.</i>
R19-20	17.4-21	18.26-29	<i>House only</i>	MnState — O&M <i>The House imposes a tuition-freeze for degree-granting undergraduate programs through the 23-24 and 24-25 academic years. The Senate does not.</i>
R21-22	19.13-22	20.17-20	<i>Different</i>	MnState — Open Educational Resources <i>The House expands this rider to include free course materials beyond the statutory Z-Degree program. This is related to the House’s increase in funding for this rider. This rider in the Senate is unchanged from the previous omnibus act.</i>
R22	19.34-20.1	20.31-34	<i>Different</i>	MnState—Student Support Services <i>The Senate rider requires systemwide resources (i.e. mental health supports) to be available 24/7 online and “via telephone and text.” The House only requires the resources to be available 24/7 online.</i>
R22	20.4-15	21.27-22.9	<i>Different</i>	MnState—Upgrades to equipment and learning environments. <i>The Senate makes this a rider under a separate “workforce development” appropriation, while the House includes it as a rider within the larger O&M appropriation. The Senate rider also provides greater detail about possible uses of the funds.</i>
R22-23	20.16-20.29	22.10-21	<i>Different</i>	MnState—Industry sector programming <i>The Senate makes this a rider under a separate “workforce development” appropriation, while the House includes it as a rider within the larger O&M appropriation.</i>
R31-33	28.1-29.8	55.3-56.34	<i>Different</i>	Financial Review of Grant Recipients <i>Both chambers include new sections requiring state agencies to review the finances of grant and award recipients and authorizes agencies to delay or deny grants under certain circumstances. However, there are significant differences between the two sections.</i>

Article 2: Policy Provisions

Side by Side Page	House Lines	Senate Lines	Comparison	Description
R34	n/a	30.30-31.3	<i>Senate only</i>	Access to Menstrual Products <i>The Senate requires MnState, and requests the UMN, to provide students with access to menstrual products at no charge.</i>
R34	n/a	31.4-31.17	<i>Senate only</i>	Hunger-Free Campus Designation Approval <i>The Senate amends the hunger-free campus program by requiring the student advisory council established under current law, instead of the different student associations, to create an application process and make recommendations to the commissioner. The commissioner shall have final approval for the designation and the award amount.</i>
R34	n/a	31.18-32.7	<i>Senate only</i>	Hunger-Free Campus Competitive Grant <i>The Senate expands the hunger-free grants to nonprofit private postsecondary institutions and increases the hunger-free initial institution designation award from \$8,000 to \$25,000 and the sustaining award from \$5,000 to \$15,000. No more than 20% of the total grant awards shall be for grants to nonprofit private postsecondary institutions.</i>
R38	34.5-6	35.30	<i>Different</i>	Inclusive Higher Education Grants <i>The House only makes public postsecondary institutions eligible for inclusive higher education grants. The Senate makes public and private nonprofit postsecondary institutions eligible.</i>
R41-42	n/a	38.25-39.21	<i>Senate only</i>	Student Advisory Council <i>The Senate amends the duties of the student advisory council to include the new requirement related hunger-free campus applicants.</i>
R43	n/a	41.16-25	<i>Senate only</i>	State Grant Program — Reporting <i>The Senate requires OHE to provide spending projections for the Minnesota Commitment to Higher Education Act. Current law requires spending projections for the state grant program.</i>
R48-49	n/a	46.24-49.25	<i>Senate only</i>	Minnesota Commitment to Higher Education Act <i>The Senate establishes the Minnesota Commitment to Higher Education Act, which is a last dollar program paying for the actual tuition and fees at public colleges and universities for students with an adjusted gross household income below \$80,000.</i>
R51	43.24-29	49.26-49.30	<i>Different</i>	Teacher Shortage Loan Repayment Program <i>Both sections prioritize awards to applicants from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups. The differences are merely technical/stylistic.</i>

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R51	43.30-44.12	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Dual Training Competency Grants <i>The House adds to the cost of training “recommended” books and materials, in addition to required books and materials.</i>
R53	45.19-46.9	51.6-51.32	<i>Different</i>	Direct Admission Program <i>The House limits the automatic conditional admission under this program to public postsecondary institutions in Minnesota, while the Senate also includes private nonprofit institutions. The Senate section also requires OHE to provide students with information about the state grant program and Minnesota Commitment to Higher Education act, and encourage students to determine financial aid eligibility.</i>
R53	46.10-14	n/a	<i>House only</i>	MnState Board of Trustees: Responsibility <i>In the statute regarding selection of a student board member, the House makes a technical change to eliminate a reference to the Trustee Candidate Advisory Council, which its bill repeals on R59.</i>
R54	46.30-47.9	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Workforce Development Scholarships: Program Eligibility <i>Expands the scholarship program to include students enrolled in their first and second years at state universities, who may receive awards of \$3,500. Expands the scholarship program to include students enrolled in certificate programs, who may receive awards of \$1,500.</i>
R54	47.10-15	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Workforce Development Scholarships: Renewal Cap <i>The House increases the total lifetime award cap on scholarships from \$7,500 to \$12,000 per student.</i>
R54	47.10-15	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Workforce Development Scholarships: Administration <i>The House allows up to 1.5 percent of program funds to be used for administering the program.</i>
R55	48.1-18	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Postsecondary Unemployment Insurance Aid <i>The House provides state aid to support unemployment insurance payments by UMN, MnState, and Tribal colleges. The aid must be appropriated by the legislature, but target amounts are set by this section at the difference between each entity’s unemployment insurance costs in 2022 and those costs for the current year. This is intended to compensate for the expanded eligibility of certain higher education employees for unemployment benefits between school terms, a provision which is being carried in the house’s omnibus education finance bill (H.F. 2497).</i>
R55-56	48.19-23	53.1-10	<i>Different</i>	Pensions: Employer Contribution Rate <i>Both sections increase the employer contribution rate for the individual retirement account plan (IRAP) to 8.75% so that it equals the employer contribution rate for the teachers retirement association (TRA) plan. The House increases the rate to 8.75% immediately, while the Senate increases to that amount gradually.</i>

Side by Side Page	House Lines	Senate Lines	Comparison	Description
R56-57	48.24-49.30	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Paramedic Scholarship Program <i>The House establishes a new temporary scholarship program for students enrolled in paramedic programs.</i>
R57-58	50.1-51.13	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Allied Health Technician Scholarship Program <i>The House establishes a new temporary scholarship program for students newly entering specified health technician programs.</i>
R58	51.14-51.22	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Unemployment Insurance Aid Reports <i>Requires annual reports to the legislature on unemployment insurance aid under the new section created by the House on R55.</i>
R58-59	51.23-52.4	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Higher Education Bonding Policy <i>The House includes an uncodified section declaring an intention of the legislature not to require public postsecondary systems to pay for portions of their bonding projects.</i>
R59	52.5-6	n/a	<i>House only</i>	Repealer <i>The House repeals the MnState Trustee Candidate Advisory Council, which is tasked with making nonbinding recommendations to the governor for appointments to the MnState Board of Trustees. This board has not been active since 2012. The House also repeals a subdivision in the workforce development scholarship statute that sets award amounts. This would now be controlled under the new language the House includes at R54.</i>
R59	n/a	53.11-31	<i>Senate only</i>	Postsecondary Student Basic Needs Working Group; Report <i>The Senate requires OHE to convene a working group on postsecondary student basic needs. The report must include a comprehensive plan on how to identify, assess, and support students who are experiencing housing and food insecurity. The report is due by September 1, 2024.</i>
R60	n/a	54.1-55.2	<i>Senate only</i>	Report On Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Course Placement Practices <i>The Senate requires OHE to complete a report on MnState course placement practices. The preliminary report is due February 1, 2024, with a final report containing recommendations and findings due February 1, 2025</i>