

# House Research Act Summary

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## Overview

This act makes policy changes related to public and private postsecondary education, including the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), and the Office of Higher Education (OHE). Unless otherwise stated, this chapter is effective August 1, 2012.

- 1 Student health care. Requires the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota or the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to provide to grant a waiver from the institution's required student health plan if requested by a student. The waiver must allow a student to select a benefit plan from an employer, association group, health sharing or private insurance, or MinnesotaCare.
- 2 Definitions; statement of immunization. Adds categories of students to the types of students who are not required, under current law, to have a statement of immunization on file with the public or private postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrolling, subject to exemptions provided in law. Specifically excludes students attending only extension, online, or evening or weekend adult accelerated programs.
- 3 Bookstores; course materials. Conforming change to citations.
- 4 Course schedule and material list. Requires MnSCU institutions to compile course schedules with all course materials required and recommended for each course. The course schedule must include, to the extent practicable, information now required of bookstores as amended in section 5. Course schedule information must be available on the institution's Web site.
- 5 Notice to purchase. Makes notification to the campus bookstore of selected course material mandatory for MnSCU academic departments or instructors. Also requires the notice of selection must be provided to the bookstore and students 45 days, instead of 30 days, before the start of the term in which the selected material will be used. Requires notice 45 days prior to the start of the term if an earlier version of a book is an acceptable substitute for a new edition. Clarifies information that bookstores must provide to students and requires information on custom textbooks which are defined. Increases the time required for bookstores to notify students from 15 to 30 days before the start of the

term.

- 6 Interest income. Technical change eliminating obsolete date effective July 1, 2012.
- 7 Continued operation. Requires Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) to provide MnSCU with access to its funds if those funds are adequate to continue the MnSCU operations. Requires MMB to continue to provide MnSCU with administrative and systems services and requires MnSCU to pay for these services. The amounts of the payments are appropriated to MMB. This is effective July 1, 2012.
- 8 Issuance of revenue bonds. Increases from \$300 million to \$405 million the maximum amount of the aggregate principal of revenue bonds issued by MnSCU. The board of trustees is authorized to issue revenue bonds for capital costs of revenue producing facilities at state universities and two-year colleges, including dormitories, food service, parking, student unions, and similar revenue-producing facilities. The board must consult with the Ways and Means and Finance committees of the legislature about the facilities to be financed with the revenue bonds.
- 9 Contingent account owner. Changes "individual" to "person" to accommodate trusts as a designated account owner in the Minnesota college savings plan.
- 10 Mineral research; scholarships. Reallocates up to \$25 million of the permanent university fund (PUF) mineral research account that funds the Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRI) to mining related engineering degree programs offered by the University of Minnesota at Mesabi Range Community and Technical Colleges and for scholarships for students to attend those programs. Scholarships are capped at \$6,500 per year for no more than four academic years. The reallocation begins January 1, 2013.
- 11 Exemptions; avocational schools. Exempts postsecondary schools offering only avocational, recreational, or remedial subjects from having to be licensed as a private career school if, before August 1, 2008, its name included *academy* or *institute*. Under current law, any private postsecondary school that uses *academy* or *institute* in its name must be licensed as a private career school with the Office of Higher Education. The change is retroactive to August 1, 2008.
- 12 Eligibility; safety officer survivor grant. Expands the safety officer survivor educational grant program to include grants for graduate education. Total eligibility for the grant remains at eight semesters or the equivalent. The change is retroactive to July 1, 2011.
- 13 Award amount; safety officer survivor graduate grant. Sets the maximum award for graduate education at the tuition maximum for four-year programs as set in session law. For the current biennium, this tuition maximum is \$10,488 per year. To determine the grant award, full time graduate enrollment is defined as eight or more credits per term. The change is retroactive to July 1, 2011.
- 14 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities textbook work group. Requires the MnSCU board of trustees to establish a work group to study methods to reduce the cost of textbooks for students, including alternative textbook delivery methods, cross-campus delivery, and expanded use of e-books to provide textbook cost savings. Specifies the groups that must be represented on the task force.
- 15 University of Minnesota appropriations transfer to Hennepin County Medical Center. Transfers \$645,000 each year of the current biennium from state appropriations to the university for operations and maintenance for the graduate family medicine education programs at Hennepin County Medical Center. Provides an immediate effective date.
- 16 Teacher performance assessment. Requires the Minnesota Board of Teaching to report to the legislative committees with responsibility for K-12 and Higher Education with recommendations for eliminating lower priority tests to offset the fees charged to students for the new teacher performance assessment.