HOUSE RESEARCH — Bill Summary —

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Overview

Establishes a scholarship grant program for students interested in science and math.

1 Minnesota academy of mathematics and science state scholarship grants.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a state scholarship grant program to increase student participation in science and math education and to improve science and math teaching and learning. Requires a school that provides advanced instruction in science, math and technology and enrolls scholarship recipients to: (1) advance policies and practices that promote students' science and math literacy; (2) improve the science and math preparation of new and practicing science and math teachers; (3) increase public support for rigorous science and math education; and (4) increase communication between providers of science and math instruction.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Makes scholarship funds available for an eligible student to enroll in a school that provides advanced instruction in science, math and technology if the school: (1) is operated by a nonprofit, nonsectarian corporation; (2) offers a residential program; (3) selects similar numbers of residential students from each congressional district; (4) assumes financial responsibility for all required education programs; (5) does not charge students additional fees for programs the school provides through contract with other educational agencies; and (6) limits additional fees to those allowed the Minnesota center for arts education for room and board and certain service and program fees.

Subd. 3. Application process. Directs secondary school students and schools and school districts to request application forms from the commissioner. Requires schools and school districts to assist students in completing application forms according to the commissioner's time line. Requires student applicants to indicate the students' qualifications and interest in science, math and technology. Directs the commissioner to widely disseminate program information.

Subd. 4. Scholarship awards; amounts. (a) Allows the commissioner to award up to 16 scholarships in fiscal year 2000 and an additional 16 scholarships in fiscal year 2001, with

scholarships each fiscal year distributed to two resident students, one boy and one girl, in each of the state's eight congressional districts.

(b) Makes scholarship amounts equal to the costs of the instruction and residential program, less the amount of general education revenue the school receives for a student.

Subd. 5. General education. Pays schools enrolling scholarship recipients the general education and operating capital revenue available to charter schools.

2 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$720,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of children, families and learning for the purpose of section 1. Makes \$480,000 available in each fiscal year.