

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Students over age 21; Contract Alternative Programs

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Overview

Minnesota law allows regular education students to attend school until they graduate from high school or until they are 21 years of age. An existing program, called the Graduation Incentives Program, serves a variety of students facing unique circumstances. One option under the graduation incentives program allows a certain narrow group of students who are over the age of 21 to continue to attend school until graduation.

This bill adds another category of pupils who may attend school past the age of 21. The bill limits eligibility to students who are attending a contract alternative program and who have not otherwise graduated from high school. The students must be English language learners and have fewer than 10 years of formal education instruction. For FY 06 and FY 07, this opportunity is only available to students who are between 21 and 22 years of age. For FY 08 and later, this bill extends eligibility to students who are between 22 and 23 years of age as well.

Section

- 1 Graduation incentives program; eligible pupils.** Adds to the graduation incentives program another category of pupils who may attend school past the age of 21. Limits eligibility to students who: have not graduated from high school; are English language learners; and have fewer than 10 years of formal education instruction. For FY 06 and FY 07, this opportunity is only available to students who are between 21 and 22 years of age. For FY 08 and later, extends eligibility to students who are between 22 and 23 years of age

Section

as well.

- 2** **Graduation incentives program; eligible programs.** Allows the students who qualify under section 1 to receive additional instruction only through a contract alternative school.