HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Pilot project to provide career and college counseling to high school students

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Overview

Establishes a three-year pilot program to provide high school students in grades 9 to 12 with career and college counseling. Establishes a partnership of higher education research institutions to inform interested stakeholders about the effects of providing students with career and college counseling. Appropriates \$2,000,000 for the career and college counseling program and \$2,000,000 for the research consortium.

Section

1 Career and college counseling pilot program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a three-year pilot program to help high school students in grades 9 to 12 make informed career and postsecondary education choices through local partnerships that: connect students and their high school with local organizations, agencies, institutions, businesses, and industries; and enable students to learn about work and higher education opportunities.

Directs a community-based intermediary organization with appropriate resources and experience to coordinate program planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Subd. 2. Eligibility; application. Directs an interested school district that serves a student population of 50 percent or more students of color and 50 percent or more students eligible for free or reduced price meal to apply to the education commissioner. Requires a program applicant also to submit to the commissioner a

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Section

plan that: identifies and describes the qualifications of the community-based intermediary organization prepared to coordinate the efforts of program participants to provide high school students with knowledge about work and higher education; convenes school counselors, administrators, and others to develop a plan for a career and counseling center in each high school within the district that is appropriately staffed to help high school students; establishes opportunities for students to learn about work and higher education and improves students' access to well-paid Minnesota jobs; increases the number of students taking ACT and SAT tests, enrolling in higher education institutions, and applying for scholarships; increases the number of families participating in college and financial planning meetings; improves student and faculty understanding of the academic preparation needed for college; offers courses that strengthen students' academic and career and technical skills and aligns high school and postsecondary courses; helps students overcome negative attitudes and behaviors; increases the number of high school graduates completing postsecondary programs leading to employment; and pursues a data collection, accountability, and reporting system that informs interested stakeholders about program results.

- **Subd. 3. Program participant; reports; recommendations.** (a) Directs the education commissioner to review applications and select a qualified district for this program.
- (b) Directs the participating district to periodically report to the commissioner and to submit a final report by December 31, 2010, that evaluates the program's effectiveness. Directs the commissioner to report to the legislature by February 15, 2011, and recommend whether and how to expand the program statewide.

Makes this section effective for the 2007-2008 through the 2009-2010 school years.

- **Research consortium.** Establishes a partnership of Minnesota public and private post-secondary institutions working with prekindergarten through grade 12 practitioners to develop and implement a data collection, accountability, and statewide reporting system that informs interested stakeholders about the effects of providing students with career and college counseling.
 - Makes this section immediately effective.
- **Appropriations.** Appropriates \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2009 for the career and college counseling program. Appropriates \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2009 for the research consortium. Makes the research consortium appropriation contingent upon nonpublic participants obtaining a 3 to 1 match of funds and in-kind contributions from nonstate funding sources.