

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** Winkler and others

**Subject:** Modifies Adult Basic Education and GED Payments

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### Overview

This bill modifies Adult Basic Education (ABE) aid and GED test fees.

Adult basic education (ABE) programs provide academic instruction for persons over age 16 who do not attend school. The purpose of the instruction is to enable students to obtain high school diplomas or equivalency certificates.

The Commissioner of Education must approve a district's ABE program. The commissioner may also contract with private nonprofit organizations to provide these programs.

A district or an organization offering an ABE program may charge a sliding fee to program participants.

School districts may use funds from the community education levy and state community education aid for ABE programs. In addition, ABE programs are funded with state aid and federal funds. The total amount from all sources cannot exceed the actual cost of providing adult education programs.

The state also reimburses testing centers for 60 percent of the cost of administering general education development (GED) tests, up to a maximum of \$20 per individual. GED tests, which qualify students for a high school

## Section

equivalency certificate, are available to Minnesota residents over age 19 whether or not they have taken a refresher course.

## Section

- 1 State total adult basic education aid.** Amends § 124D.531, subd. 1. Specifies that state total ABE aid for fiscal year 2008 equals \$47,273,000, plus any amount that is not paid during the previous fiscal year as a result of certain adjustments. Specifies that beginning in fiscal year 2008, \$100,000 of the state total ABE aid must be set aside to support the implementation of a GED online system of instructional delivery. Requires the commissioner to administer the GED online funds and program to provide GED preparation through the Internet to eligible ABE students.
- 2 Adult basic education program aid limit.** Amends § 124D.531, subd. 4. Increases the maximum aid for a program per prior year contact hour from \$21 to \$22 per prior year contact hour. Makes changes to the aid for programs in fiscal years 2008 and 2009.
- 3 General education development (GED) test fees.** Amends § 124D.55. Increases the percentage of the GED test fee that the commissioner is required to pay from 60 to 75 percent and increases the monetary limitation from \$20 to \$75 for an eligible individual.
- 4 Appropriations; GED test fees.** Appropriates \$400,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2009 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for GED test fees.