

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 983

**DATE:** March 8, 2007

**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** Ward and others

**Subject:** Pilot program establishing career academies and a workplace connection

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### Overview

Establishes a three-year pilot project involving the Brainerd, Crosby Ironton, Staples Motley, Pillager and Pequot Lakes school districts, the Central Lakes College, the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce, and participating business partners. Directs participants to establish multiple career academies that offer high school students academic courses and work-based learning experiences needed for employment in high-demand, well-paid careers within the region. Makes an unspecified general fund appropriation in fiscal year 2008 for this project.

### Section

#### **1 Career academies and a workplace connection; three-year pilot project.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes a three-year pilot project to examine academic and career-related opportunities available to rural high school students through a regional program that connects educational institutions and regional employers and is offered jointly by school districts, a postsecondary institution, and a regional chamber of commerce. Directs the Brainerd, Crosby Ironton, Staples Motley, Pillager and Pequot Lakes school districts, the Central Lakes College, the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce and participating business partners to jointly establish multiple career academies that offer high school students academic courses and work-based learning experiences needed for employment in high-demand, well-paid careers within the region.

**Subd. 2. Program structure.** Directs participants to collaborate in offering dual-credit, project-based courses that: offer a curriculum incorporating knowledge and skills related engineering, health, manufacturing, technology, business, administration

## **Section**

and nursing; are coordinated among participants and are taught at an area high school or the Central Lakes College or at a business location for required work-based credits; permit students in any participating school district to enroll in any course offered at any participating educational institution without any funding loss to any participant; include online learning opportunities; measure student performance in both classroom and work-based settings; share an academic calendar; allow school district staff and Central Lakes College faculty to teach the students; and offer career related curriculum and activities.

**Subd. 3. Technical assistance.** Directs the education commissioner to provide technical assistance upon request.

**Subd. 4. Evaluation; report.** Directs project participants to evaluate the impact of the pilot project and to submit a report to the commissioner by November 15, 2010. Directs the commissioner to present the results of the evaluation and to make related recommendations to the legislature by February 1, 2011.

Makes this section applicable to the 2007-2008 through the 2009-2010 school years.

- 2 Appropriation.** Makes an unspecified general fund appropriation in fiscal year 2008 to the education commissioner for the purpose of establishing the pilot project under section 1. Makes the appropriation available until June 30, 2009.