

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Authorizing Contract Alternative Programs to Serve Older Students

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Overview

Minnesota's school funding system provides general education aid for pupils who have not yet graduated from high school up to the age of 21 (the student may continue to generate funding after his or her 21st birthday up until the first of the following: September 1st; the date the pupil graduates; the pupil withdraws for more than 21 days; or the end of the current school year). There is no general education aid available for students past this point in time.

Minnesota's graduation incentives program is designed to offer an alternative set of programs to pupils who face substantial risk factors.

This bill expands the maximum age of a pupil participating in the graduation incentives program from 21 years to 22 years for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 and extends the maximum age to 23 years for fiscal year 2010 and later. An older student qualifies only if the pupil: (1) speaks English as a second language or has limited English proficiency; (2) has received less than eight years of formal education; (3) has not completed the requirements for a diploma; and (4) expects to complete graduation requirements by the pupil's 23rd birthday.

Section

- 1** **Eligible pupils.** Raises the maximum age of a pupil that may generate general education revenue through the graduation incentives program from 21 years of age to 22 years of age for FY 2008 and 2009 and to 23 years of age for FY 2010

Section

and later. Limits the eligibility to an older student only if the pupil: (1) speaks English as a second language or has limited English proficiency; (2) has received less than eight years of formal education; (3) has not completed the requirements for a diploma; and (4) expects to complete graduation requirements by the pupil's 23rd birthday.

- 2** **Eligible programs.** Authorizes older students qualified by section 1 to participate in contract alternative programs.