

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill makes various changes to the Minnesota Colleges and Universities central administration.

Section

- 1 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities chancellor.** Limits the chancellor's salary to the governor's salary, currently \$120,303. This is effective for contracts signed after the effective date, which is the day following enactment.
- 2 Senior Citizen.** Increases from 62 to 66 the age at which "senior citizens" can take postsecondary courses at MnSCU and the U of M, paying only an administrative fee.
- 3 Central system office.** Establishes a central system office for MnSCU in statute to provide support for the institutions. The office is under the direction of the chancellor. Its duties are specified, with a requirement that services are coordinated with institutional services so as not to duplicate functions provided by the institutions.
- 4 Contracts; chancellor, vice-chancellor, president.** Specifies that the board of trustees must limit the salary in the employment contracts for the chancellor, vice-chancellor or presidents to the governor's salary, currently \$120,303. This is effective for contracts signed after the effective date, which is the day following enactment.
- 5 Information technology development.** Requires the board of trustees to choose information technology programs and projects in a focused and strategic manner. Requires back office applications to be completed before implementing other information technology systems.
- 6 Information technology.** Requires the board to reorganize a coordinated information technology delivery so that it is located closest to the students and institutions. Authorizes regional delivery of technology services.

- 7 **System office reorganization.** Requires the board to reorganize service delivery so that academic and student affairs are provided at the institution level and to eliminate duplication of these services between the central office and the institutions.
- 8 **Streamlined MnSCU system office.** Requires the board to reduce expenditures through the streamlined delivery of centrally delivered services. Specifies divisions to be eliminated and responsibilities to be transferred from the central system office.
- 9 **Restructuring higher education and elimination of duplication; report.** Requires the board to achieve a 20 percent savings in state appropriations through an evaluation of all programs in the MnSCU system to identify opportunities for consolidation and elimination of duplication. Requires a report to the legislature on savings in the 2011-2012 academic year.
- 10 **Credit transfer.** Requires the board to develop and implement a plan to improve credit transfer, including improved information, training of relevant staff, methods to address intellectual property barriers, and improvement in uniform treatment of credit transfers. Requires working groups to develop actions to remove barriers to credit transfer. Requires a progress report to the legislature by January 15, 2012, and prohibits any mandatory common course numbering system until after the report.
- 11 **Centers of excellence.** Requires a plan to phase out centers of excellence and prohibits the separate allocation of funds for centers of excellence beginning in fiscal year 2012.
- 12 **Appropriation reductions.** Provides that reductions in funding for the central office for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 must not be allocated or charged back to the institutions.
- 13 **Repealer.** Repeals the statutory centers of excellence.