

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This is the House omnibus higher education bill making policy changes related to public and private postsecondary education, including the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), and the Office of Higher Education (OHE).

- 1** Student health care. Requires the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota or the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to provide an option to waive a health benefit plan selected by an institution. The waiver must consider the fiscal impact on students and families, and allow a student to select a benefit plan from an employer, association group, health sharing or private insurance or MinnesotaCare.
- 2** Definitions; statement of immunization. Adds categories of students to the types of students who are not required, under current law, to have a statement of immunization on file with the public or private postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrolling, subject to exemptions provided in law. Specifically excludes students attending only extension, online, or evening or weekend adult accelerated programs.
- 3** Bookstores; course materials. Conforming change to citations.
- 4** Student advisory council. Increases the listed membership of the Office of Higher Education's (OHE) Student Advisory Council by adding the chair of the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition, an organization of student representatives from all five campuses of the University of Minnesota and not limiting the membership to the listed organizations.
- 5** Course schedule and material list. Requires MnSCU institutions to compile course schedules with all course materials required and recommended for each course. The course schedule must include, to the extent practicable, information now required of bookstores as amended in section 6. Course schedule information must be available on the institution's Web site.
- 6** Notice to purchase. Makes notification to the campus bookstore of selected course material mandatory for MnSCU academic departments or instructors. Also requires the notice of selection must be provided to the bookstore and students 45 days, instead of 30 days, before the start of the

term in which the selected material will be used. Requires notice 45 days prior to the start of the term if an earlier version of a book is acceptable when a new edition is selected. Clarifies information that bookstores must provide to students and requires information on custom textbooks which are defined. Increases the time required for bookstores to notify students from 15 to 30 days before the start of the term.

- 7** Interest income. Technical change eliminating obsolete date effective July 1, 2012.
- 8** Issuance of revenue bonds. Increases from \$300 million to \$405 million the maximum amount of the aggregate principal of revenue bonds issued by MnSCU. The board of trustees is authorized to issue revenue bonds for capital costs of revenue producing facilities at state universities and two-year colleges, including dormitories, food service, parking, student unions, and similar revenue-producing facilities. The board must consult with the Ways and Means and Finance committees of the legislature about the facilities to be financed with the revenue bonds.
- 9** Contingent account owner. Changes "individual" to "person" to accommodate trusts as a designated account owner in the Minnesota college savings plan.
- 10** Mineral research; scholarships. Reallocates up to \$25 million of the permanent university fund (PUF) mineral research account that funds the Natural Resource Research Institute (NRRRI) to mining related engineering degree programs offered by the University of Minnesota at Mesabi Range Community and Technical Colleges and for scholarships for students to attend those programs. The reallocation begins January 1, 2013.
- 11** Exemptions; avocational schools. Exempts postsecondary schools offering only avocational, recreational, or remedial subjects from having to be licensed as a private career school if, before August 1, 2008, its name included *academy* or *institute*. Under current law, any private postsecondary school that uses *academy* or *institute* in its name must be licensed as a private career school with the Office of Higher Education. The change is retroactive to August 1, 2008.
- 12** Eligibility; safety officer survivor grant. Expands the safety officer survivor educational grant program to include grants for graduate education. Total eligibility for the grant remains at eight semesters or the equivalent. The change is retroactive to July 1, 2011.
- 13** Award amount; safety officer survivor graduate grant. Sets the maximum award for graduate education at the tuition maximum for four-year programs as set in session law. For the current biennium, this tuition maximum is \$10,488 per year. To determine the grant award, full time graduate enrollment is defined as eight or more credits per term. The change is retroactive to July 1, 2011.
- 14** Publicly owned recreation; entertainment facilities. Removes the requirement that a liquor license for a University of Minnesota arena must allow for alcohol sales in the public portion of the arena consisting of one-third of the seating area and changes the requirements for the football stadium. As a condition of selling or serving alcohol in the stadium, alcohol must be available to the general public attending an intercollegiate football game at one location in the stadium through half-time of the football game.
- 15** Expiration. Specifies that all changes to the requirements for the University of Minnesota to have liquor licenses at arenas and the football stadium that are made in section 15, expire on July 1, 2014.
- 16** University of Minnesota appropriations transfer to Hennepin County Medical Center. Transfers \$645,000 each year of the current biennium from state appropriations to the University for operations and maintenance for the graduate family medicine education programs at Hennepin County Medical Center. Provides an immediate effective date.
- 17** Minnesota State Colleges and Universities textbook work group. Requires the MnSCU board of trustees to establish a work group to study methods to reduce the cost of textbooks for students,

including alternative textbook delivery methods, cross-campus delivery, and expanded use of e-books to provide textbook cost savings. Specifies the groups that must be represented on the task force.

- 18** Teacher performance assessment student fee. Prohibits MnSCU students in teacher preparation programs from being charged to take a test to evaluate teacher preparation programs. Provides an immediate effective date.