HOUSE RESEARCH =

Bill Summary =

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Overview

This bill establishes an account in the special revenue fund for the tuition reciprocity program administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE), and directs all payments and appropriations to the account and requires all payments to be made from the account. Any money remaining in the account at the end of a biennium, cancels to the general fund. The changes are effective beginning in fiscal year 2013.

Under current law, any payments made to Minnesota under a tuition reciprocity agreement with Wisconsin, North Dakota, or South Dakota are deposited into the general fund. All payments made by Minnesota to a reciprocity state must be made from the general fund appropriations to OHE for the reciprocity program. If the appropriation is insufficient to make the payments, OHE can transfer surplus funds from a financial aid program or may seek a supplemental appropriation.

- Tuition reciprocity account. Creates a new account in the special revenue fund for any money related to the tuition reciprocity program, including state appropriations and payments to Minnesota from other states. Requires any payments by Minnesota to other states to be made from the account. Requires the transfer of any balance in the reciprocity account to the general fund at the end of the biennium.
- **Wisconsin.** Requires any tuition reciprocity payments from or payments to Wisconsin be deposited in or made from the tuition reciprocity account.
- North Dakota; South Dakota. Requires any tuition reciprocity payments from or payments to North Dakota be deposited in or made from the tuition reciprocity account. Under current law, South Dakota is treated the same in the reciprocity program as North Dakota.
- **Deposit of appropriations; interstate tuition reciprocity.** Requires state reciprocity appropriations for fiscal year 2013 to be deposited in the tuition reciprocity account.