

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies the standards for determining whether a student qualifies for a resident tuition rate, and certain state grants and scholarships, for attendance at a public college or university in Minnesota. It also authorizes public institutions to secure private sources of funding to provide financial aid to students who qualify for the resident tuition rate under the new standards in the bill.

In addition to a high school attendance and graduation requirement, the standards include authorization for a student without lawful immigration status to qualify if the student submits an affidavit indicating that the student has filed an application to legalize the student's status, or will file an application at the earliest opportunity to do so.

Section

1 Resident tuition. Paragraph (a) provides conditions under which a student is entitled to qualify for a resident tuition rate at state universities and colleges, including the University of Minnesota. A student would qualify for a resident tuition rate if the student:

- (1) attended high school in Minnesota for three or more years;
- (2) graduated from a high school in Minnesota, or attained, within Minnesota, the equivalent of high school graduation; and
- (3) files an affidavit with the institution stating the student has filed an application to legalize the student's immigration status, or will file an application at the earliest opportunity the student is eligible to do so, if the student does not have a lawful immigration status within

Section

the United States.

Students who are defined as “nonimmigrant aliens” under federal law (title 8, section 1101, subsection (a), paragraph (15)) would not qualify for a resident rate under this section. This definition includes certain types of diplomats, international exchange students, and workers entering the United States to temporarily perform specific types of jobs.

Paragraph (b) provides that these requirements are in addition to other requirements that may be established by state statute or rule, or by the institution itself, to qualify for a resident tuition rate.

This section is effective the day following final enactment and applies to tuition for terms commencing on or after that date.

- 2** **Private scholarship aid.** Permits a public postsecondary institution to use private sources of funding to provide financial aid to any student who qualifies for resident tuition as provided in section 1 of the bill.
- 3** **Resident student (state grants and scholarships).** Provides that a student who meets the qualifications for resident tuition as provided in section 1 of the bill also qualifies for certain state grants and scholarships administered by the Office of Higher Education, including the state grant, child care grant, Indian scholarship, and the achieve scholarship.

This section does not qualify additional students for state student loan programs.