

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2647
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 5, 2014

Authors: Pelowski

Subject: Higher Education “Unsession”

Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This bill is the higher education “unsession” bill for 2014. It makes a number of technical updates to the statutes and rules governing the Office of Higher Education, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the University of Minnesota.

Section

- 1** **Applicability.** Streamlines a reference to “public postsecondary institutions,” in a section related to the right of a student to complete an academic program according to the program’s requirements at the time of enrollment.
- 2** **Hepatitis and meningitis information.** Consolidates two subdivisions requiring information on student health issues into one. The separate existing subdivision is repealed.
- 3** **Definitions.** Modifies and establishes defined terms that are used throughout chapter 136A, which governs the activities of the Office of Higher Education. These modifications work in connection with a number of later sections which replace more complex phrasing with a shorter, defined term.
- 4-9, 16, 21, 22, 24, 26-38, 42-44** **Definitions.** Streamlines the definition and usage of “Office of Higher Education” and “Commissioner of Higher Education” to “office” and “commissioner” for purposes of chapter 136A. Several sections also contain minor grammatical updates and/or eliminate obsolete language.
- 10-12** **Definitions.** Provides a definition of “term” and makes conforming usage updates.

Section

- 13 Award year.** Establishes a definition of the term “award year,” to be applied in place of the existing term “academic year” to sections governing various state grants and scholarships. The term is defined to conform to a definition in federal law.
- 14 Eligibility for grants.** Codifies language originally enacted in 2005 related to extended grant eligibility for certain students ordered to active military service, and re-codifies language related to grant eligibility for students who withdraw due to an illness. The substance of the language is unchanged.
- 15 Awards.** Eliminates language related to withdrawals due to illness; this language is recodified in its entirety in section 14.
- 17 Eligible students (child care grants).** Codifies language originally enacted in 2005 related to extended child care grant eligibility for certain students ordered to active military service.
- 18 Student eligibility (Indian scholarships).** Eliminates authority of the commissioner of higher education to make determinations about a student’s eligibility for the Indian scholarship program, based on the commissioner’s view of the student’s likelihood to benefit from further education.
- This section also contains conforming changes to streamline language, based on the new definitions provided in the bill.
- 19 Eligible programs (Indian scholarships).** Streamlines language related to the use of Indian scholarships.
- 20 Award amount (Indian scholarships).** Eliminates references to obsolete federal programs, and provides conforming changes to streamline language and improve clarity, based on the new definitions provided in the bill.
- 23 Eligible student (student loan programs).** Eliminates references to defined terms in federal law that are no longer used in administering the state student loan programs.
- 25 Agencies (student loan programs).** Updates terminology to reflect current practices related to administration of the state student loan programs.
- 39 Cooperation with local schools.** Eliminates an obsolete reference to the “Profiles of Learning.” These academic standards were repealed in 2003.
- 40 Name.** Clarifies the right of an institution to use the term “college” in its name, based on its degree offerings.
- 41 Private institutions; adjudication of fraud or misrepresentation.** Clarifies the right of the Office of Higher Education to disallow an institution’s use of the term “college” in its name.
- 45, 47, 48, 52, 55, 57-59, 61-71 Definitions.** Streamlines the definition and usage of “Board of Trustees” and related phrasing to “board” for purposes of chapter 136F.

Section

- 46** **Membership.** Clarifies the eligibility requirement for student members on the MnSCU Board of Trustees.
- 49** **Labor organization board member selection process.** Clarifies procedures related to nomination of candidates to fill the MnSCU board seat designated for a representative of labor, including an allowance for nominees to be forwarded to the governor in the event a vacancy occurs.
- 50** **Missions.** Eliminates obsolete language related to the merger of the state universities, community colleges, and technical colleges into the MnSCU system in the 1990s.
- 51** **Designation.** Streamlines and updates the list of campuses that comprise the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.
- 53** **Campus merger or reorganization.** Eliminates obsolete language referring to community college centers. “Centers” are no longer used.
- 54** **Campus closing.** Eliminates obsolete language referring to community college centers. “Centers” are no longer used.
- 56** **Grants.** Eliminates references to discharge dates, for purposes of determining eligibility for technical college tuition relief grants for Southwest Asia veterans.
- 60** **Purchase of neighboring property.** Updates terminology.
- 72** **Maximum account balance limit.** Eliminates obsolete language.
- 73** **Recreational program assessment.** Eliminates obsolete language referring to a legislative report on the feasibility of recreational use of a parcel of land owned by the University of Minnesota. Related to construction of TCF Bank Stadium, this report was submitted to the legislature in 2007.
- 74** **Revisor’s instruction.** Instructs the revisor to make any additional terminology, cross-reference, and phrasing updates as necessary to conform to the changes made in this bill.
- This section also instructs the revisor to re-number a section governing High School-to-College Developmental Transition Programs. The re-numbering would move this section to the chapter of statute that governs the Office of Higher Education.
- 75** **Repealer.** Repeals the following:
- 135A.14, subd. 6. Statements of immunization.** This subdivision is consolidated with existing law in section 2 of the bill.
- 135A.05, subd. 2. Cooperation of institutions of higher education.** Requires the Office of Higher Education and public postsecondary institutions to provide data to the legislature upon request.
- 136A.101, subs. 2 and 3. Definitions.** The definitions in this section are consolidated with

Section

existing law in section 3 of the bill.

136A.15, subs. 3-5. Definitions. The definitions in this section are consolidated with existing law in section 3 of the bill.

136A.16, subs. 3, 4, 6, 7, 10; 136A.17. Office of Higher Education as federal lender. Eliminates obsolete language related to the Office of Higher Education acting as a lender for federal Stafford loans. Under current federal law, the Office of Higher Education is not authorized to act in this capacity.

136A.62, subd. 2. Definitions. The definition in this section is consolidated with existing law in section 3 of the bill.

136F.11. Designation of normal schools and teachers colleges. Eliminates obsolete language that provided updated designations for state normal schools and teachers colleges.

136F.44, subd. 2. Administrative interaction with students. Eliminates obsolete language related to information required to be contained in MnSCU's 1998-99 budget request.

136F.49. Licensure. Eliminates obsolete language related to licensing of teaching personnel by the MnSCU board.

136F.90, subd. 6. Board of trustees duties. Eliminates obsolete language related to payment of interest on outstanding revenue bonds.

137.02, subd. 1. Powers and duties of board of regents. Eliminates obsolete language related to travel between the University of Minnesota campus and the university farm.

137.59. Neighborhood impact report. Eliminates obsolete language related to a neighborhood impact report submitted to the legislature in 2007. The report assessed impacts of the university of surrounding neighborhoods, including the impact of the now-constructed TCF Bank stadium.

Administrative Rules 4810.2100 to 4810.2800. Medical and osteopathy student loan program. Eliminates obsolete language related to a loan program that was repealed in 1989.

Administrative Rules 4830.5000 to 4830.5400. Federal student loans. Eliminates obsolete language establishing procedures for administering federal student loans by the Office of Higher Education. Under federal law, the Office of Higher Education is not authorized to act in this capacity.