

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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The Office of Higher Education (OHE) administers a grant program that offers financial assistance to lower income students who have young children to pay for child care expenses. The Postsecondary Child Care Grant Program offers grants of up to \$3,800 per year to Minnesota resident students to pay for child care expenses. The size of grants depend on the number of people in the student's household, the number of hours of child care a student needs, a student's income, the availability of funding, and a student's enrollment status.

Under current law, an applicant must be a resident of Minnesota to participate in the Child Care Grant Program. To qualify as a resident student, an individual typically must have resided in the state of Minnesota for more than 12 months for purposes other than postsecondary education. A number of other categories of individuals qualify as resident students automatically, including refugees, members of the armed forces, veterans, and individuals who relocated to Minnesota from a disaster area.

H.F. 1022 would make students whose spouses are residents of the state of Minnesota eligible for the child care grant program, regardless of whether or not they are residents themselves. This provision would take effect starting with the 2015-2016 academic school year.