

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

Article 1: Higher Education; Technical Changes

Overview

This article makes a number of technical changes to the statutes governing higher education in Minnesota. The majority of these changes are in chapter 136A, which governs the Office of Higher Education (OHE), and chapter 141, which governs the process that OHE uses to register and license private career schools. The bill makes additional technical changes to the educational assistance program for survivors of veterans, and repeals language related to the University of Minnesota Hospitals.

- 1 Student representation.** Requires the commissioner to invite the Student Advisory Council to nominate a student or students to serve on task forces created by the office. Repeals the requirement that the commissioner place at least one student on any task force created by the office.
- 2 Collecting fees.** Removes the word “annually” from language appropriating fees collected by OHE. Current law permits OHE to charge fees for seminars, conferences, workshops, and materials, as well as for the registration and licensure of private institutions.
- 3 Policy.** Replaces the phrase “not-for-profit” with “nonprofit.”
- 4 Sale of an institution.** Replaces the phrase “not-for-profit” with “nonprofit.”
- 5 Conditional approval.** Allows OHE to grant an institution conditional approval for a degree program if the institution is in the process of receiving accreditation. This change reflects current OHE practice.

Section

- 6 Exemption.** Technical change updating a cross-reference.
- 7 Scope.** Technical change updating a cross-reference.
- 8 Registration.** Eliminates requirement that all out of state institutions identify themselves as “private institutions.” Requires all institutions registered with OHE to publish the contact information for OHE in their school catalog or student handbook.
- 9 Marketing.** Permits the Office of Higher Education to market the College Savings Plan using fees imposed on participants in the plan.
- 10 - 33** Makes technical changes to the statutes governing the registration and regulation of private career schools. Changes statutory language to use the phrase “private career school” rather than “school.” Updates cross-references.
- 34 Definitions.** Clarifies the institutions eligible for the state educational assistance program for surviving children of deceased veterans. Public institutions and private institutions licensed and registered with the Office of Higher Education are now eligible for the program.
- 35 Costs of hospitalization.** Repeals a cross-reference to statutes governing the hospitals that were previously operated by the University of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota transferred the hospitals to Fairview Hospital and Healthcare Services in 1996.
- 36 Revisor’s instruction.** Directs the Revisor of Statutes to move the sections of statute governing private career schools into chapter 136A, which is the chapter governing the Office of Higher Education. These sections are currently in chapter 141.
- 37 Repealer.** Repeals a number of sections of statutes. The sections the bill repeals are as follows:
- § 136A.862: governs the high school-to-college developmental transition program grants.
 - § 141.271, subds. 4 and 6: governs the refund of tuition, fees, and other charges in situations where students attend a school operating without a license. Subdivisions 4 and 6 govern the process of such refunds for resident schools and combination distance education-resident schools.
 - §§ 158.01 to 158.12: governs the University of Minnesota Hospitals. The University transferred the hospitals to Fairview Hospital and Healthcare Services in 1996.

Article 2: Policy Clarifications

Overview

This article repeals language governing the Achieve Scholarship Program. This program has been unfunded since the 2011-2012 academic year.

- 1 Planning information for postsecondary education.** Removes a reference to the achieve scholarship program, which the bill repeals in article 2, section 2. This program has been unfunded since the 2011-2012 academic year.
- 2 Repealer.** Repeals language governing the Achieve Scholarship Program. This program has been unfunded since the 2011-2012 academic year.

Section

Article 3: Policy Changes

Overview

This article prohibits private postsecondary institutions from withholding a student's transcript because the student is in arrears or default on a loan issued by the institution.

- 1 - 2** **Criteria for approval.** Prohibits private postsecondary institutions from withholding a student's transcript because the student is in arrears or default on a loan issued by the institution.
- 3** **Revisor's instruction.** Directs the Revisor of Statutes to make any necessary cross-reference changes in the Minnesota Statutes or Rules resulting from the repealers in the bill.