

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes a pilot program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at four state university campuses. The pilot program would provide an inclusive, two-year full-time residential college experience for participants, and would lead to an appropriate academic credential upon completion.

The bill also extends eligibility for state financial aid programs to participants in the MnSCU pilot program, as well as to participants in similar programs at other postsecondary institutions in Minnesota.

Section

1 Satisfactory academic progress. Provides a modified standard of “satisfactory academic progress” for students with an intellectual disability enrolled in certain postsecondary transition programs.

The effect of this change is to extend eligibility for state financial aid programs – including the state grant – to participants in the MnSCU pilot program established in section 2, and to participants in similar programs at other postsecondary institutions in Minnesota.

2 State Universities; pilot program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Establishes a pilot program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program must provide an inclusive, two-year full-time residential college experience for participants, and must lead to an appropriate academic credential upon

Section

completion. The program must be offered at four state university campuses, no later than the 2017-2018 school year.

Subdivision 1 provides basic parameters for development of the pilot program, including standards for selecting the campuses at which it will be offered, and a listing of organizations that must be consulted in the program development process.

Subd. 2 provides standards for enrollment and admission of participants. The enrollment goal for each program must be ten incoming students per year.

Subd. 3 establishes the required curriculum and activities of the program. The program must include core academic courses, as well as opportunities for participants to engage fully in campus life.

Subd. 4 requires MnSCU to submit a report to the legislature describing plans for implementation of the program and recruitment of applicants no later than January 15, 2017. A second report, due January 15, 2019, must update the legislature on program operations, including completion statistics and the feasibility of expanding the program to other state university campuses.