

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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The Office of Higher Education administers a number of grant and scholarship programs to help students pay for the costs of higher education. These programs limit participation to Minnesota resident students as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.101. Typically, a student must have resided in Minnesota for at least 12 months for purposes other than higher education in order to be considered a “resident student.” A number of other categories of individuals are also defined as residents, including members of the armed forces, refugees, and spouses and dependents of resident veterans.

H.F. 841 amends the definition of resident student to include all individuals who are active members of the Minnesota National Guard and reside in the state of Minnesota. This change would make all resident National Guard members eligible for the following Office of Higher Education grant and scholarship programs.

- **State Grant Program:** Provides grants to undergraduate students based on financial need. This program is the largest of the state grant and scholarship programs. (Minn. Stat. § 136A.121)
- **Child Care Grant Program:** Provides grants to students to help cover the costs of child care while enrolled in a course of study that applies to an undergraduate degree. (Minn. Stat. § 136A.125)
- **Indian Scholarships Program:** Provides scholarships to students with at least one-fourth Indian ancestry who qualify for federal Pell Grants. (Minn. Stat. § 136A.126)

This bill does not affect a student's eligibility for resident tuition rate at the University of Minnesota or at a Minnesota state college or university. Each postsecondary institution sets its own qualifications for resident or nonresident status; residency determinations are not directly regulated by state law.