

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1996  
**Version:** As introduced

**DATE:** March 23, 2015

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**Subject:** Associate degree transfer pathways within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU)

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### Overview

Currently, the transfer of credit between associate and bachelor's degree programs are governed by bilateral "articulation agreements" between individual institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system. In 2014, the legislature required MnSCU to develop a plan to implement "transfer pathways" for students transferring within the MnSCU system. (Laws 2014, ch. 312, art. 1, § 12) Transfer pathways are system-wide agreements that allow students who complete associate degrees to transfer into bachelor's degree programs without losing credit or taking additional prerequisites.

H.F. 1996 would require MnSCU to implement the plan developed by MnSCU, and appropriates funds for the purposes of implementing the plan. In addition, the bill requires MnSCU to develop new bachelor and applied science degree programs in areas of high employment need.

### Section

**1** **Baccalaureate degree pathways.** Requires MnSCU to implement transfer pathways to facilitate the transfer of students between associate and bachelor's degree programs.

**Subd. 1. Regulate MnSCU baccalaureate transfers.** Requires MnSCU to implement the transfer pathway plan that MnSCU previously developed. To the extent possible, the plan must be implemented in accordance with the plan and timeline previously developed.

**Section**

**Subd. 2. New or enhanced bachelor of applied science degrees.** Requires MnSCU to develop new bachelor of applied science degree programs in areas of high employment need in the state.

**Subd. 3. Report.** Requires MnSCU to report to the higher education committees of the legislature on the status of the transfer pathways plan by March 15, 2016.

**2 MnSCU; appropriation.** Appropriates funds to implement the plan required in section 1.