

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

In Minnesota, special education aid is paid to school districts and charter schools based on the serving schools' special education costs and population characteristics. Unreimbursed expenses are charged back to the district of residence. For fiscal years 2015 and later, 90 percent of the unreimbursed qualifying expenses are charged back to the resident district unless the services are provided through an intermediate school district, cooperative, or charter school where at least 70 percent of the school's enrollment is eligible for special education services, in which case 100 percent of the unreimbursed costs are charged back to the resident district. Special education aid is paid on the twice monthly metered aid schedule in a similar manner as general education aid.

This bill provides an additional aid adjustment for a charter school where at least 90 percent of the enrollment is eligible for special education services to both enhance the aid payment and expedite the timeline for paying the aid to the charter school.

Section

- 1** **Special education aid.** Exempts the alternative special education aid created in section 2 from the normal payment of special education aid to a charter school.
- 2** **Alternative special education aid.** Creates a special education aid adjustment for a charter school that serves a student population where at least 90 percent of the students are eligible for special education services. Sets the aid amount equal to 90 percent of the school's nonfederal special education expenditures. If under the revised budget, the calculated aid

Section

amount would exceed 95 percent of the school's nonfederal special education expenditures for the year, requires the commissioner to adjust the aid so that after the June 20 payment the amount paid equals 95 percent on the nonfederal expenditures. Requires 75 percent of the remaining "clean up" payment to be paid on July 15, with the remainder paid on October 30.