

File Number: H.F. 1206

Date: February 20, 2017

Version: As amended by the H1206A2 amendment

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Subject: Spinal cord and traumatic brain injury research grants and scholarships.

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Overview

H.F. 1206 creates a new program and expands the existing program in spinal cord and traumatic brain injury research at the Office of Higher Education (OHE). The bill has three main parts:

1. It adds two new members to the advisory council for the spinal cord and traumatic brain injury research grant program at OHE.
2. It establishes a new program to provide scholarships for spinal cord and traumatic brain injury student research.
3. It appropriates \$2,000,000 per year for the existing research grant program and \$500,000 per year for the new student research program.

Background: The 2015 Legislature established a program at OHE to provide spinal cord and traumatic brain injury research grants. OHE must consult with a 12-member advisory council when determining grant recipients. The appropriation for the program was \$500,000 in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Section

- 1 Membership.** Adds two members to the existing 12-member advisory council. The two new members must be a veteran with a traumatic brain injury and a representative of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. Both new board positions are created by splitting two existing council positions into two parts.

Section

2 Spinal cord and traumatic brain injury student research scholarship and education program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a program to award scholarships for spinal cord and traumatic brain injury student research and education. Describes the purpose of the program.

Subd. 2. Program administration. Requires the commissioner of higher education to select an appropriate partnering institution to manage the scholarship and education program. Requires the partnering institution to be Minnesota-based, have experience with issues related to spinal cord and traumatic brain injury, and be able to engage various levels of postsecondary study.

Subd. 3. First awards. Requires the commissioner to select a managing partner by September 1, 2017 and to award the first scholarship by February 15, 2018.

Subd. 4. Award Limits. Limits undergraduate awards to \$5,000. Limits graduate awards to \$45,000. Limits postdoctoral awards to \$75,000.

Subd. 5. Reporting. Requires the managing partner to annually report to the commissioner about the criteria used, the levels of study of award recipients, the amount of each award, and the amount used to cover the programs indirect costs.

Requires OHE to report annually to the higher education committees of the legislature on the same topics.

3 Appropriation; Minnesota spinal cord and traumatic brain injury research grant program. Appropriates \$2,000,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for spinal cord and traumatic brain injury research grants. Permits OHE to use three percent of the appropriation to administer the program.

4 Appropriation; Minnesota spinal cord and traumatic brain injury student research scholarship and education program. Appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2019 for the student research scholarship and education program established in section 2. Permits OHE to use three percent of the appropriation to administer the program.