

Subject Higher education: Intellectual Freedom Protection Act

Authors Rymer and others

Analyst Nathan Hopkins

Date March 25, 2026

Overview

This bill proposes a new section of statute creating an “Intellectual Freedom Protection Act” that applies to public postsecondary institutions.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p>Intellectual Freedom Protection Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Applies to Minnesota State College and Universities. As a constitutionally autonomous entity, the University of Minnesota is requested to comply.b) Prohibits institutions from conditioning student admission or faculty employment on affirmation of any kind of ideological/political statement.c) Prohibits institutions from taking actions favoring or punishing a student or faculty member based on a viewpoint expressed in any kind of ideological/political statement.d) Provides limitations regarding the application of this section.e) Requires institutions to make publicly available training materials for students, faculty, and staff regarding diversity, equity, bias, etc.f) Provides aggrieved parties with a private right of action for injunctive relief, damages, attorney fees, and costs. Imposes a one-year statute of limitations.g) Allows enforcement by the attorney general. Authorizes injunctive relief and a civil penalty of \$100,000 for each violation.h) Allows institutions to take disciplinary action against employees of the institution who violate this section. |
|---|---|