

Subject Higher education: firearms

Authors Coulter and others

Analyst Nathan Hopkins

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Summary

Current law allows Minnesota public postsecondary institutions (i.e., institutions within the University of Minnesota or the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities systems) to restrict the possession of firearms on campus by their employees and students, even if they have a lawful permit to carry a pistol. The law does not, however, empower those institutions to restrict visitors with lawful permits from carrying pistols on campus.

This bill would allow public postsecondary systems to also establish policies to restrict the possession of firearms on campus by visitors, including those with a lawful permit to carry a pistol. The penalties prescribed are the same as those that apply for private establishments (which includes private postsecondary institutions) under § 624.714, subd. 17(a).

Under its powers as an autonomous constitutional entity, the University of Minnesota has already adopted a policy restricting the possession of all firearms by visitors on campus, but it cannot prescribe any criminal penalties for a violation of that policy. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system also has a policy restricting the possession of firearms—including by campus visitors—but that policy does not restrict the possession of a pistol by a visitor who has a lawful permit to carry.