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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 1577

02/22/2017 Authored by Omar, Pinto, Sandstede, Halverson, Flanagan and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance
03/15/2017 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Finance

A bill for an act

relating to health; requiring postsecondary educational institutions to provide certain information to pregnant students and student parents; establishing a state grant program to fund activities and services to support pregnant students and student parents at postsecondary educational institutions; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 135A; 145.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [135A.158] INFORMATION PROVIDED TO STUDENT PARENTS AND PREGNANT STUDENTS.

A public or regionally accredited private postsecondary educational institution must provide information according to this section to students who are parents of one or more children age 12 or younger, and to students who notify the institution that they are pregnant. The information must include a fact sheet on the legal rights of student parents and pregnant students and a list of resources to support student parents and pregnant students. The list of resources may include resources for prenatal care, child care, transportation, and housing. This information must be available in languages that reflect the primary languages of the institution's student body.

Sec. 2. [145.87] STUDENT PARENT AND PREGNANT STUDENT SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

(b) "Low-income" means:

(1) has a family income equal to or less than 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines;

or

2.1 (2) is a dependent child of a family who has a family income equal to or less than 200
 2.2 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

2.3 (c) "Student parent" means a person who is a student at a postsecondary educational
 2.4 institution and is a parent of one or more children age 12 or younger.

2.5 (d) "Student parent program" means a comprehensive program to provide assistance in
 2.6 enrolling in a postsecondary educational institution, achieving academic success, and
 2.7 graduating, for persons applying for admission to a postsecondary educational institution
 2.8 who are pregnant or a parent of one or more children age 12 or younger, pregnant
 2.9 postsecondary education students, and student parents.

2.10 Subd. 2. **Grant program.** (a) The commissioner of health shall distribute state funds
 2.11 appropriated for purposes of this section as grants to eligible entities to fund activities that
 2.12 support the enrollment, retention, academic success, and graduation of persons who:

2.13 (1) are pregnant or a parent of one or more children age 12 or younger; and

2.14 (2) are enrolled in or applying for admission to public or regionally accredited private
 2.15 postsecondary educational institutions.

2.16 (b) This program provides state support for the Minnesota student parent support
 2.17 initiative.

2.18 Subd. 3. **Entities eligible for grants.** To receive grant funds, eligible entities must apply
 2.19 to the commissioner, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner. To be eligible
 2.20 for a grant, an entity must be:

2.21 (1) a public or regionally accredited private postsecondary educational institution located
 2.22 in Minnesota; or

2.23 (2) a community-based organization experienced in serving low-income pregnant women
 2.24 or low-income parents.

2.25 Subd. 4. **Uses of grant funds.** Grant funds must be used for:

2.26 (1) campus child care services, including starting or expanding an on-campus child care
 2.27 facility, providing public information about and assistance with accessing public child care
 2.28 assistance funds, and establishing child-friendly study rooms, student parent support groups,
 2.29 and on-campus lactation rooms. Lactation rooms funded under this section must be in a
 2.30 space other than a restroom or toilet stall, must be shielded from view and free from intrusion
 2.31 by others, and must include access to an electrical outlet;

2.32 (2) establishing, continuing, or expanding student parent programs;

3.1 (3) child care assistance for low-income student parents;

3.2 (4) scholarships for low-income pregnant students or student parents;

3.3 (5) financial assistance, including emergency cash assistance not to exceed \$1,000 per
 3.4 student, for low-income pregnant students or low-income student parents for expenses
 3.5 related to food, safe and stable housing, transportation, tuition, books, computer and Internet
 3.6 service, and child care;

3.7 (6) assisting pregnant students and student parents in securing affordable, safe,
 3.8 family-friendly housing;

3.9 (7) developing and implementing innovative approaches to providing safe, affordable
 3.10 housing for student parents; and

3.11 (8) no-interest, short-term loans for housing deposits.

3.12 Subd. 5. **Biennial reports required.** By October 1 of each even-numbered year, the
 3.13 commissioner shall report to the legislature on the operation and effect of the student parent
 3.14 and pregnant student support grant program, including:

3.15 (1) the number of grants awarded, and the dollar amount of each grant award;

3.16 (2) descriptions of the projects funded with grant funds;

3.17 (3) data on pregnant women served with the grant funds, including the number served,
 3.18 the races or ethnicities of pregnant women served, the percentage served who are low-income,
 3.19 and data on the impact of funded activities on the grades, retention rates, and graduation
 3.20 rates of pregnant women served;

3.21 (4) data on student parents served with the grant funds, including the number served,
 3.22 the races or ethnicities of student parents served, the percentage served who are low-income,
 3.23 and data on the impact of funded activities on the grades, retention rates, and graduation
 3.24 rates of student parents served; and

3.25 (5) other outcomes of projects funded under this section.

3.26 **Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION.**

3.27 \$..... for the 2018-2019 biennium is appropriated from the general fund to the
 3.28 commissioner of health for the student parent and pregnant student support grant program
 3.29 in Minnesota Statutes, section 145.87.