

A bill for an act

relating to higher education; amending textbook information; defining terms; allowing appeal of resident status; providing additional award grant for online courses; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 135A.25, subdivision 4; 136A.08, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 136A.127, by adding a subdivision.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 135A.25, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Minnesota Office of Higher Education responsibilities.** (a) For private postsecondary institutions, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education must develop educational materials considering the recommendations by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and others and at least annually convene and sponsor meetings and workshops and provide educational strategies for faculty, students, administrators, institutions, and bookstores to inform all interested parties on strategies for reducing the costs of course materials for students attending postsecondary institutions.

(b) The Minnesota Office of Higher Education must ~~identify methods to compile and distribute information on publishers that sell or distribute course material for classroom use in postsecondary institutions in a manner that meets the requirements and complies with subdivision 2. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education must also evaluate ways to make this information available for use by students and faculty in postsecondary institutions.~~ report to the committees of the legislature responsible for higher education finance by January 15, 2010, on the implementation of textbook information requirements under United States Code, title 20, section 1015b, effective July 1, 2010. In preparing the report, the office must work with representatives of the Student Advisory Council,

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Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the University of Minnesota, and the Private College Council. At a minimum, the report must include a template that publishers may use to provide the required information in a consistent format to all Minnesota campuses, and make recommendations of methods to disseminate pricing information to support students and faculty in making well informed decisions about course materials.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 136A.08, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(b) "Province" and "provincial" mean the Canadian province of Manitoba.

(c) "Resident of this state" means a resident student as defined in section 136A.101, subdivision 8.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 136A.08, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 9. **Appeal; resident status.** A student who does not meet the definition of resident after residing in Minnesota for 12 months may appeal to the director by providing documentation on the student's reasons for residing in Minnesota. The director may grant resident status to the student upon determining the documentation establishes that postsecondary education was not the student's principle reason for residing in Minnesota.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 136A.127, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 9a. **Additional award for online course completion.** An eligible student who has completed at least one online course while in high school or in a home-school setting under section 120A.22 may receive an additional award of up to \$150 to be used in conjunction with the base award described in subdivision 9. The additional award is available to new applicants for terms of enrollment beginning on or after July 1, 2009, and must be used during the period described in subdivision 12. The online course must be offered by a provider certified by the Minnesota Department of Education under section 124D.095 or by an eligible postsecondary institution as defined under section 136A.101, subdivision 4. If the official high school transcript is not sufficient to document the completion of the online course, the student may be required to submit further documentation that the office deems sufficient.