

A bill for an act
relating to higher education; requiring the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota
State Colleges and Universities to study technical education credentials.

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

Section 1. **STUDY OF CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS; EDUCATIONAL
CAREER PATH.**

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, in
conjunction with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, representatives of industry
groups, and labor unions, shall study the program requirements for certificates and
diplomas awarded by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to determine the
feasibility of designing technical education programs to allow students to have more
opportunities to earn credentials with lower credit requirements that could be combined
into higher level certificates or diplomas. The study must consult with business and
industry representatives as well as labor unions and faculty on the types of credentials that
would be recognized for employment purposes. In addition, the study must address the
feasibility of increasing the capacity to accumulate credentials in related programs into
an educational career path leading to a diploma or degree. The study must also address
the need for workers in other fields and take into account other job training programs
provided by labor unions and business.

The board must report the study findings to the committees of the legislature with
responsibility for postsecondary education finance by February 15, 2011.