

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 3079

(SENATE AUTHORS: DUCKWORTH)

DATE
03/27/2025

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Higher Education
See First Special Session, SF1

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to higher education; limiting the North Star Promise scholarship's eligibility
1.3 conditions to students enrolled in programs in high-demand industries and
1.4 occupations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 136A.1465, subdivisions
1.5 2, 10, by adding a subdivision.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 136A.1465, subdivision 2, is amended to
1.8 read:

1.9 Subd. 2. **Conditions for eligibility.** A scholarship may be awarded to an eligible student
1.10 who:

1.11 (1) has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the state
1.12 aid application;

1.13 (2) has a family adjusted gross income below \$80,000;

1.14 (3) is a graduate of a secondary school or its equivalent, or is 17 years of age or over
1.15 and has met all requirements for admission as a student to an eligible college or university;

1.16 (4) has not earned a baccalaureate degree at the time the scholarship is awarded;

1.17 (5) is enrolled in at least one credit per fall, spring, or summer semester;

1.18 (6) is enrolled in a program or course of study that applies to a degree, diploma, or
1.19 certificate in an eligible program of study under subdivision 2a;

1.20 (7) is not in default, as defined by the office, of any federal or state student educational
1.21 loan;

2.1 (8) is not more than 30 days in arrears in court-ordered child support that is collected or
 2.2 enforced by the public authority responsible for child support enforcement or, if the applicant
 2.3 is more than 30 days in arrears in court-ordered child support that is collected or enforced
 2.4 by the public authority responsible for child support enforcement, but is complying with a
 2.5 written payment agreement under section 518A.69 or order for arrearages;

2.6 (9) has not been convicted of or pled nolo contendere or guilty to a crime involving
 2.7 fraud in obtaining federal Title IV funds within the meaning of Code of Federal Regulations,
 2.8 subtitle B, chapter VI, part 668, subpart C; and

2.9 (10) is meeting satisfactory academic progress as defined in section 136A.101, subdivision
 2.10 10.

2.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 136A.1465, is amended by adding a subdivision
 2.12 to read:

2.13 Subd. 2a. **Eligible programs of study.** (a) Eligibility for the North Star Promise
 2.14 scholarship program is limited to students pursuing programs of study in industries and
 2.15 occupations that are in demand in Minnesota.

2.16 (b) The office shall determine in-demand industries and occupations based on employment
 2.17 data provided by the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The
 2.18 determination shall be based on the top 20 industries and occupations with the highest
 2.19 projected employment growth or the highest number of job openings in the state. The office
 2.20 shall review the list of in-demand industries and occupations at least once every three years.
 2.21 The office may adjust the list as needed to reflect updated employment data from the
 2.22 Department of Employment and Economic Development.

2.23 (c) The office shall approve programs of study that lead to employment in in-demand
 2.24 industries and occupations. The office shall review and update the list of approved programs
 2.25 at least once every three years to ensure alignment with current labor market data.

2.26 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 136A.1465, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

2.27 Subd. 10. **Report.** The commissioner of higher education shall submit a preliminary
 2.28 report by September 1, 2025, and an annual report beginning February 15, 2026, to the
 2.29 chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
 2.30 higher education, on the details of the program, including ~~the~~:

2.31 (1) the status of the scholarship fund; ~~and~~

2.32 (2) a list of all currently eligible programs of study under subdivision 2a; and

3.1 ~~(2)~~ (3) North Star Promise participation data aggregated for each eligible institution to
3.2 show the:

3.3 (i) number of eligible students who received scholarships in the prior academic year;

3.4 (ii) average and total award amounts;

3.5 (iii) summary demographic data on award recipients;

3.6 (iv) total number of students enrolled in eligible institutions in the prior academic year;

3.7 (v) retention rates of participating students; ~~and~~

3.8 (vi) number of eligible students who graduated with a degree and, for each eligible
3.9 student, the number of consecutive semesters and nonconsecutive semesters attended prior
3.10 to graduation; and

3.11 (vii) eligible programs of study under subdivision 2a in which scholarship recipients
3.12 were enrolled.

3.13 Sec. 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

3.14 This act is effective the day following final enactment and applies to scholarship awards
3.15 beginning in the fall term of the 2026-2027 academic year.