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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 4440

03/18/2026 Authored by Feist; Lee, X.; Frazier; Wolgamott and Kotyza-Witthuhn The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Higher Education Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to children and families; reducing an appropriation for the Juvenile
1.3 Detention Alternatives Initiative; appropriating money for restorative practices
1.4 grants; amending Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 5, article 1, section 3.

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

1.6 Section 1. Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 5, article 1, section 3, is amended to
1.7 read:

1.8 Sec. 3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
1.9 MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND
1.10 UNIVERSITIES

1.11 878,550,000
1.12 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 879,039,000 \$ 878,050,000

1.13 The amounts that may be spent for each
1.14 purpose are specified in the following
1.15 subdivisions.

1.16 Subd. 2. Central Office and Shared Services
1.17 Unit 36,401,000 36,401,000

1.18 For the Office of the Chancellor and the
1.19 Shared Services Division.

1.20 830,384,000
1.21 Subd. 3. Operations and Maintenance 830,873,000 829,884,000

1.22 (a) \$5,700,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
1.23 \$5,700,000 in fiscal year 2027 are to provide
1.24 supplemental aid for operations and

2.1 maintenance to the president of each two-year
2.2 institution in the system with at least one
2.3 campus that is not located in a metropolitan
2.4 county, as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
2.5 section 473.121, subdivision 4. The board
2.6 shall transfer at least \$158,000 for each
2.7 campus not located in a metropolitan county
2.8 in each year to the president of each institution
2.9 that includes such a campus.

2.10 (b) The Board of Trustees is requested to help
2.11 Minnesota close the attainment gap by funding
2.12 activities which improve retention and
2.13 completion for students of color.

2.14 (c) \$9,500,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
2.15 \$9,500,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for
2.16 enterprise-wide technology, including
2.17 upgrading the Integrated Statewide Record
2.18 System and maintaining enterprise-wide
2.19 technology services.

2.20 (d) \$50,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$50,000
2.21 in fiscal year 2027 are to reduce students'
2.22 out-of-pocket costs by expanding free
2.23 offerings in course materials and resources,
2.24 including through open educational resources,
2.25 open textbooks, and implementation of
2.26 Z-Degrees under Minnesota Statutes, section
2.27 136F.305.

2.28 (e) \$3,158,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
2.29 \$3,158,000 in fiscal year 2027 are to expand
2.30 student support services. This appropriation
2.31 provides funding to campuses to address basic
2.32 needs insecurity, mental health, and other
2.33 high-need student support services by
2.34 increasing the amount of available resources
2.35 to students. In addition, this funding provides

3.1 systemwide resources and coordination,
3.2 including electronic connections for peer
3.3 support and professional clinical support for
3.4 mental health. These systemwide resources
3.5 must be available online 24 hours a day, seven
3.6 days a week.

3.7 (f) \$883,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$894,000
3.8 in fiscal year 2027 are for costs associated
3.9 with the increased employer contribution rates
3.10 for the higher education individual retirement
3.11 account plan under Minnesota Statutes, section
3.12 354B.23, subdivision 3.

3.13 (g) \$282,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$282,000
3.14 in fiscal year 2027 are to pay the cost of
3.15 supplies and equipment necessary to provide
3.16 access to menstrual products under Minnesota
3.17 Statutes, section 135A.1365.

3.18 (h) \$809,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$809,000
3.19 in fiscal year 2027 are for unemployment
3.20 insurance aid under Minnesota Statutes,
3.21 section 268.193, to institutions within the
3.22 system.

3.23 (i) \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026 ~~and \$500,000~~
3.24 ~~in fiscal year 2027 are~~ is for the Juvenile
3.25 Detention Alternatives Initiative at
3.26 Metropolitan State University. Of this amount,
3.27 \$280,000 ~~each year~~ is to provide juvenile
3.28 justice services and resources, including the
3.29 Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, to
3.30 Minnesota counties and federally recognized
3.31 Tribes; and \$220,000 ~~each year~~ is for funding
3.32 to local units of government, federally
3.33 recognized Tribes, and agencies to support
3.34 local Juvenile Detention Alternative
3.35 Initiatives, including but not limited to

4.1 alternatives to detention. ~~Any unencumbered~~
 4.2 ~~balance remaining in the first year does not~~
 4.3 ~~cancel and is available in the second year~~ This
 4.4 is a onetime appropriation.

4.5 (j) \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026 is to address
 4.6 contamination of PFAS, as defined in
 4.7 Minnesota Statutes, section 116.943, arising
 4.8 from or associated with the use of firefighting
 4.9 foam at the Lake Superior College Emergency
 4.10 Response Training Center (ERTC) prior to
 4.11 January 1, 2015. Money may be used to
 4.12 conduct environmental investigation and
 4.13 response activities, including ERTC program
 4.14 accommodations, and reimburse past expenses
 4.15 incurred for these activities. This is a onetime
 4.16 appropriation.

4.17 **Subd. 4. Direct Student Support** 7,350,000 7,350,000

4.18 (a) \$4,500,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
 4.19 \$4,500,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for
 4.20 workforce development scholarships under
 4.21 Minnesota Statutes, section 136F.38. The
 4.22 board may use up to five percent of this
 4.23 appropriation to administer the programs. Of
 4.24 the amount appropriated, \$500,000 in fiscal
 4.25 year 2027 only is for the law enforcement
 4.26 grant pilot program under article 2, section 61.

4.27 (b) \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2026 and
 4.28 \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for
 4.29 emergency assistance grants to Minnesota
 4.30 State Colleges and Universities students. The
 4.31 Board of Trustees must:

4.32 (1) award emergency assistance grants directly
 4.33 to students to meet immediate needs that could
 4.34 interfere with the student completing the term

5.1 or their program, including but not limited to
5.2 emergency housing, food, and transportation;

5.3 (2) minimize any negative impact on student
5.4 financial aid resulting from the receipt of
5.5 emergency money; and

5.6 (3) by February 1 of each year, submit a report
5.7 to the chairs and ranking minority members
5.8 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
5.9 over higher education on emergency assistance
5.10 grants awarded to students using the money
5.11 appropriated in this paragraph. The report must
5.12 detail:

5.13 (i) how money was distributed among
5.14 institutions;

5.15 (ii) the process by which students apply for
5.16 emergency assistance grants and institutions
5.17 make a determination about whether money
5.18 will be awarded;

5.19 (iii) how many students received emergency
5.20 assistance grants and the average award
5.21 amount;

5.22 (iv) the most common student needs that
5.23 grants were awarded to meet; and

5.24 (v) the average length of time between grant
5.25 application and disbursement to students.

5.26 (c) \$600,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$600,000
5.27 in fiscal year 2027 are for hunger-free campus
5.28 activities. The Board of Trustees must:

5.29 (1) meet the following hunger-free campus
5.30 requirements on Minnesota State Colleges and
5.31 Universities campuses:

- 6.1 (i) maintain an on-campus food pantry or
6.2 partnership with a local food bank to provide
6.3 regular, on-campus food distributions;
- 6.4 (ii) provide information to students on the
6.5 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
6.6 (SNAP), the Minnesota Family Investment
6.7 Program (MFIP), and other programs that
6.8 reduce food insecurity;
- 6.9 (iii) notify students in work-study employment
6.10 of their potential eligibility for SNAP benefits
6.11 and provide information to those students
6.12 about eligibility criteria and how to apply for
6.13 benefits;
- 6.14 (iv) hold or participate in one hunger
6.15 awareness event per academic year;
- 6.16 (v) provide emergency assistance grants to
6.17 students; and
- 6.18 (vi) establish a hunger task force that meets a
6.19 minimum of three times per academic year
6.20 and that includes at least two students
6.21 currently enrolled at the institution;
- 6.22 (2) match at least 50 percent of the amount
6.23 appropriated in this paragraph with either
6.24 in-kind contributions or other resources; and
- 6.25 (3) by February 1 each year, submit a report
6.26 to the chairs and ranking minority members
6.27 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction
6.28 over higher education on hunger-free campus
6.29 activities performed using the money
6.30 appropriated in this paragraph. The report must
6.31 detail:
- 6.32 (i) how money was distributed among
6.33 institutions;

7.1 (ii) how hunger-free campus requirements
 7.2 were met at those institutions; and
 7.3 (iii) how many students were served.

7.4 **Subd. 5. Cook County Higher Education Board** 300,000 300,000

7.5 For a grant to the Cook County Higher
 7.6 Education Board to provide educational
 7.7 programming, workforce development, and
 7.8 academic support services to remote regions
 7.9 in northeastern Minnesota. The Cook County
 7.10 Higher Education Board shall continue to
 7.11 provide information to the Board of Trustees
 7.12 on the number of students served, credit hours
 7.13 delivered, and services provided to students.

7.14 **Subd. 6. Learning Network of Minnesota** 4,115,000 4,115,000

7.15 **Sec. 2. OFFICE OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES; APPROPRIATION.**

7.16 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2027 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
 7.17 of children, youth, and families for the Office of Restorative Practices to issue grants under
 7.18 Minnesota Statutes, section 142A.76, subdivision 5.