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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. **4451**

03/12/2020

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Higher Education Finance and Policy Division

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to higher education; developing a merit-based scholarship program.
- 1.3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.4 Section 1. **MINNESOTA MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**
- 1.5 (a) The Office of Higher Education shall study the feasibility of developing a merit-based
- 1.6 scholarship program for high school students graduating from a Minnesota high school who
- 1.7 demonstrate exceptional academic merit, regardless of financial need, in an effort to
- 1.8 incentivize Minnesota's talented students to attend a public institution of higher learning in
- 1.9 Minnesota.
- 1.10 (b) The Office of Higher Education shall explore:
- 1.11 (1) specific eligibility criteria for the merit-based scholarship, which may include
- 1.12 minimum ACT or SAT scores, grade point average, and school and community involvement;
- 1.13 (2) award amounts;
- 1.14 (3) award allocation; and
- 1.15 (4) any other necessary or worthy scholarship components or requirements.
- 1.16 (c) The Office of Higher Education shall also develop criteria for students to remain
- 1.17 eligible for the scholarship while attending a public institution of higher learning, which
- 1.18 may include maintaining a minimum GPA at the institution in which the student is enrolled.
- 1.19 (d) The Office of Higher Education shall report back to the members of the senate and
- 1.20 house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over higher education finance and

- 2.1 policy by December 15, 2020, with recommendations, draft legislation establishing the
- 2.2 program, and a fiscal estimate.