

SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 4416

(SENATE AUTHORS: PUTNAM, Oumou Verbeten and Dibble)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/29/2024	11851	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Higher Education
03/11/2024	12143	Author added Oumou Verbeten
03/13/2024	12198	Author added Dibble

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A bill for an act

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relating to higher education; establishing academic freedom protections for

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Minnesota State Colleges and Universities faculty; creating an artificial intelligence

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working group; requiring a report; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota

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Statutes, chapter 136F.

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

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Section 1. [136F.405] ACADEMIC FREEDOM PROTECTION.

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Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following term has the

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meaning given.

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(b) "Academic freedom" means the freedom of an educator or researcher in higher

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education to investigate and discuss the issues in their academic field, and to teach or publish

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findings without interference from political figures, boards of trustees, donors, or other

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entities.

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Subd. 2. Faculty rights. (a) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities must maintain

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policies that support and encourage academic freedom. A faculty member at a Minnesota

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state institution may, without limitation, discuss the subject matter in the classroom of the

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courses the faculty member is assigned to teach without interference from political figures,

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boards of trustees, donors, or other entities. Each faculty member shall have the right to

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teach in an atmosphere of free intellectual inquiry and shall not be subjected to restraints

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or harassment that would impair teaching.

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(b) A faculty member is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of

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results, so long as the faculty member fulfills the requirements and duties of the academic

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position held.

(c) A Minnesota state institution shall not discriminate against a faculty member for engaging in political activities or holding or voicing political views, so long as the exercise of this right does not interfere with the faculty member's job responsibilities as a faculty member.

Subd. 3. **Artificial intelligence regulation.** (a) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institutions may not use artificial or generative intelligence as the primary instructor for a credit-bearing course. Credit-bearing courses must be taught by an instructor of record who is a living human being employed by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

(b) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institutions may not use artificial or generative intelligence to provide library services, counseling and crisis intervention services, athletic coaching, and training. Library services, counseling services, athletic coaching, and training must be provided by a faculty member of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities who is a living human employed by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), faculty retain the right to use artificial or generative intelligence as part of their teaching and other work duties.

(d) When artificial or generative intelligence is used by faculty or staff of a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institution, it must be cited and made clear to students as being developed using artificial or generative intelligence.

**Sec. 2. MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENT WORKGROUP.**

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall convene a work group to develop policies and procedures for the safe and ethical use of artificial intelligence. The board must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over higher education by May 1, 2025. The work group must include representatives from:

(1) the Minnesota State University Student Association;

(2) the Minnesota State College Student Association;

(3) the Minnesota State College Faculty;

(4) the Inter Faculty Organization;

(5) the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees;

(6) the Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty; and

3.1 (7) others as deemed necessary by the workgroup.