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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

**H. F. No. 1542**

03/09/2015 Authored by Selcer, Pugh, Bly, Ward, Rosenthal and others

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Innovation Policy

03/19/2015 By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on Education Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to education; reporting school and district data on foreign exchange and  
1.3 study abroad programs; encouraging foreign exchange and study abroad programs  
1.4 and policies; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 5.

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

1.6 Section 1. [5.411] DISTRICT AND SCHOOL FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND  
1.7 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS; REGISTRATION.

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Programs.** (a) A school district or charter school with enrolled  
1.9 students who participate in a foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program  
1.10 must report to the Department of Education annually by November 1 the following data  
1.11 from the previous school year:

1.12 (1) the number of student deaths that occurred while its students were participating  
1.13 in the foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program and that resulted from  
1.14 their participation in the program;

1.15 (2) the number of student accidents and illnesses that occurred while its students  
1.16 were participating in the foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program and  
1.17 that resulted from their participation in the program; and

1.18 (3) the name and type of the foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad  
1.19 program and the city or region where the reported death, accident, or illness occurred.

1.20 (b) School districts and charter schools must ask but must not require students who  
1.21 complete a foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program to disclose the  
1.22 information under paragraph (a).

1.23 (c) When reporting the data, a school district or charter school may supplement the  
1.24 data with a brief explanatory statement. The department annually must aggregate and

publish the reported data on the department Web site in a format that facilitates public access to the aggregated data and include links to both the United States Department of State's Consular Information Program that informs the public of conditions abroad that may affect students' safety and security and publicly available reports on sexual assaults and other criminal acts affecting students participating in a foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program.

(d) School districts and charter schools with enrolled students who participate in foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad programs are encouraged to adopt policies supporting the programs and to include program standards to ensure students' health and safety.

Subd. 2. **Registration; report.** (a) To be eligible to provide a foreign exchange or study or other travel abroad program to students enrolled in a school district or charter school, a program provider must register with the secretary of state in the form and manner prescribed by the secretary of state. Program providers, annually by August 1, must provide the data required under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), to the districts and charter schools with enrolled students participating in the provider's program.

(b) Registration with the secretary of state must not be considered or represented as an endorsement of the program provider by the secretary of state.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for the 2015-2016 school year and later.