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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 39

01/04/2023 Authored by Pelowski, Hortman, Wolgamott, Brand, Newton and others
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 higher education; appropriating money to the Board of Trustees of the
1.3 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to expand low-cost course material
1.4 options and fund an undergraduate tuition reduction.

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

1.6 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; TUITION REDUCTION AND LOW-COST COURSE
1.7 MATERIALS.

1.8 (a) \$40,290,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$79,570,000 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated
1.9 from the general fund to the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and
1.10 Universities to reduce the price of student tuition and reduce the cost of attendance.

1.11 (b) Of the amounts appropriated in paragraph (a), \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year is to
1.12 reduce students' out-of-pocket costs by expanding free offerings in course materials and
1.13 resources, including through open educational resources, open textbooks, and Z-Degrees,
1.14 as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 136F.305.

1.15 (c) For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years, the Board of Trustees must reduce
1.16 undergraduate tuition rates at state colleges and universities by two percent each year as
1.17 compared to the previous academic year rates. This tuition reduction may not be offset by
1.18 increases in mandatory fees, charges, or other assessments to the student. Colleges and
1.19 universities are permitted to increase or maintain differential tuition charges in fiscal years
1.20 2024 and 2025 where costs for course or program delivery have increased due to
1.21 extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the college or university. Rates and
1.22 rationale must be approved by the Board of Trustees.