

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **355**

January 25, 2007

Authored by Nornes

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to higher education; establishing the academic competitiveness
1.3 highlighting individual excellence and valuing education grant program;
1.4 appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 136A.01,
1.5 subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter
1.6 136A.

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

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 136A.01, subdivision 2, is amended to
1.9 read:

1.10 Subd. 2. **Responsibilities.** The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is responsible
1.11 for:

1.12 (1) necessary state level administration of financial aid programs, including
1.13 accounting, auditing, and disbursing state and federal financial aid funds, and reporting on
1.14 financial aid programs to the governor and the legislature;

1.15 (2) approval, registration, licensing, and financial aid eligibility of private collegiate
1.16 and career schools, under sections 136A.61 to 136A.71 and chapter 141;

1.17 (3) administering the Learning Network of Minnesota;

1.18 (4) negotiating and administering reciprocity agreements;

1.19 (5) publishing and distributing financial aid information and materials, and other
1.20 information and materials under section 136A.87, to students and parents;

1.21 (6) collecting and maintaining student enrollment and financial aid data and
1.22 reporting data on students and postsecondary institutions to develop and implement a
1.23 process to measure and report on the effectiveness of postsecondary institutions;

1.24 (7) administering the federal programs that affect students and institutions on a
1.25 statewide basis; ~~and~~

2.1 (8) prescribing policies, procedures, and rules under chapter 14 necessary to
 2.2 administer the programs under its supervision; and

2.3 (9) administering the academic competitiveness highlighting individual excellence
 2.4 and valuing education grant program, under section 136A.126.

2.5 **Sec. 2. [136A.126] ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS HIGHLIGHTING**
 2.6 **INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AND VALUING EDUCATION GRANT.**

2.7 Subdivision 1. **Creation.** The academic competitiveness highlighting individual
 2.8 excellence and valuing education grant program, also known as the ACHIEVE program,
 2.9 the ACHIEVE grant, or ACHIEVE, is created to provide free tuition at any public
 2.10 postsecondary institution in the state and to cover tuition at private, nonprofit institutions.

2.11 Subd. 2. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "eligible institution" means a
 2.12 public postsecondary institution in the state or a private, nonprofit institution in the state
 2.13 regulated by the state under this chapter.

2.14 Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, in addition
 2.15 to the requirements listed under section 136A.121, a student must:

2.16 (1) not have a family adjusted gross income more than \$150,000 for the year prior to
 2.17 September 1 of the school year for which the grant is made;

2.18 (2) either rank in the top 25 percent of the student's class as certified by the
 2.19 Minnesota Department of Education or receive a score of 26 or higher on the ACT test;

2.20 (3) for students that have received this grant in one or more previous years, maintain
 2.21 a cumulative B average or a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;

2.22 (4) attend an eligible institution;

2.23 (5) for students returning for their third or fourth year, be pursuing a baccalaureate
 2.24 degree and formally declare a major in the appropriate department in one of the following
 2.25 areas:

2.26 (i) agriculture and related sciences;

2.27 (ii) computer and information sciences;

2.28 (iii) engineering;

2.29 (iv) engineering technologies;

2.30 (v) biological and biomedical sciences;

2.31 (vi) mathematics and statistics;

2.32 (vii) physical sciences; or

2.33 (viii) science technologies and technicians.

2.34 Subd. 4. **Grant amount.** The grant amount shall be equal to the tuition and fees
 2.35 charged by the eligible institution, not to exceed the tuition and fee maximum established

3.1 by law, less the federal Pell Grant award and the state grant award for which the student
3.2 is eligible.

3.3 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.4 \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to the Minnesota Office of Higher
3.5 Education for the biennium ending June 30, 2009, for the ACHIEVE grant program to be
3.6 used for postsecondary student grants and program administration.

3.7 Sec. 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

3.8 Section 2 is effective for students first enrolling in the fall term for the 2007-2008
3.9 school year. Sections 1 and 3 are effective the day following final enactment.