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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 3596

March 11, 2010

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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 education finance; including targeted services as an alternative
1.3 learning program; requiring the department to convene a workgroup and report
1.4 to the legislature; amending Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, sections
1.5 123A.05, subdivision 1; 123A.06, subdivision 2.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 123A.05, subdivision 1,
1.8 is amended to read:

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Governance.** (a) A district may establish an area learning center,
1.10 alternative learning program, ~~or contract alternative,~~ or targeted service in accordance with
1.11 sections 124D.68, subdivision 3, paragraph (d), and 124D.69.

1.12 (b) An area learning center is encouraged to cooperate with a service cooperative, an
1.13 intermediate school district, a local education and employment transitions partnership,
1.14 public and private secondary and postsecondary institutions, public agencies, businesses,
1.15 and foundations. Except for a district located in a city of the first class, an area
1.16 learning center must be established in cooperation with other districts and must serve
1.17 the geographic area of at least two districts. An area learning center must provide
1.18 comprehensive educational services to enrolled secondary students throughout the year,
1.19 including a daytime school within a school or separate site for both high school and
1.20 middle school level students.

1.21 (c) An alternative learning program may serve the students of one or more districts,
1.22 may designate which grades are served, and may make program hours and a calendar
1.23 optional.

2.1 (d) A contract alternative is an alternative learning program operated by a private
 2.2 organization that has contracted with a school district to provide educational services for
 2.3 students under section 124D.68, subdivision 2.

2.4 (e) Targeted service is an alternative learning program that may be provided by any
 2.5 school district to serve students in kindergarten through grade 8. Targeted service must be
 2.6 administered by licensed teachers.

2.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2011
 2.8 and later.

2.9 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2009 Supplement, section 123A.06, subdivision 2, is
 2.10 amended to read:

2.11 Subd. 2. **People to be served.** A state-approved alternative program shall provide
 2.12 programs for elementary pupils, secondary pupils, and adults. A ~~center~~ program may
 2.13 also provide programs and services for elementary and secondary pupils who are not
 2.14 attending the state-approved alternative program to assist them in being successful in
 2.15 school. A ~~center~~ program shall use research-based best practices for serving limited
 2.16 English proficient students and their parents. An individual education plan team may
 2.17 identify a state-approved alternative program as an appropriate placement to the extent a
 2.18 state-approved alternative program can provide the student with the appropriate special
 2.19 education services described in the student's plan. Pupils eligible to be served are those
 2.20 who qualify under the graduation incentives program in section 124D.68, subdivision 2,
 2.21 those enrolled under section 124D.02, subdivision 2, or those pupils who are eligible to
 2.22 receive special education services under sections 125A.03 to 125A.24, and 125A.65.

2.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2011
 2.24 and later.

2.25 Sec. 3. **STATE-APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE**
 2.26 **MEASURES REPORT.**

2.27 The commissioner of education shall convene a workgroup to identify or develop
 2.28 performance measures for alternative programs and students and determine a method of
 2.29 highlighting best practices among the programs.

2.30 The workgroup shall identify or develop additional performance measures specific
 2.31 to alternative education students and programs. The workgroup shall develop and track
 2.32 various performance measures, including, at a minimum: credits earned; grade promotion;
 2.33 postsecondary enrollment; and job attainment or retention. The workgroup shall also

3.1 consider how nontraditional measures of performance, including hope and self-esteem of
3.2 the students, can be used to evaluate the programs.

3.3 The workgroup shall also recommend a method for highlighting best practices
3.4 among alternative programs that score high in the measures identified above.

3.5 The workgroup must report its recommendations to the commissioner of education
3.6 by December 15, 2010. The commissioner must provide this report and any related
3.7 commentary on these findings to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
3.8 legislative committees with jurisdiction over early childhood through grade 12 education
3.9 by February 15, 2011.

3.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.