MN HOUSE RESEARCH

Subject	Higher education: MnEEP bill
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Overview

This bill contains a variety of higher education provisions from the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP), including the creation of a new scholarship program.

Summary

Section	Description
1	**State Grant Program: cost of attendance.** Increases the default living and miscellaneous expense allowance for the State Grant Program from 115 percent to 121 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for a one person household in Minnesota for nine months.
2	**State Grant Plus scholarship.** **Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes a new scholarship program. **Subd. 2. Eligibility.** A student is eligible for the program if they receive a State Grant award, are *not* eligible for a North Star Promise scholarship, and attend a Minnesota public, Tribal, or private nonprofit institution. **Subd. 3. Award amount.** Sets the award amount at 25 percent of the student's state grant award. Allows the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to uniformly reduce or increase awards to meet the program's appropriation. **Subd. 4. Administration; duration of scholarship.** Allows a student to receive a scholarship for up to four semesters for a certificate or associate's degree, and up to eight semesters for a bachelor's degree. A student can receive a scholarship under this section for a total of no more than eight semesters overall; this includes any semester in which the student received a North Star Promise scholarship. **Subd. 5. Report required.** Requires an annual legislative report from OHE on the program.

Section	Description

3   **North Star Promise scholarship: duration of scholarship.**

Provides that a semester in which a student receives a State Grant Plus scholarship under section 2 of the bill counts towards the maximum eligibility for North Star Promise scholarships.

4   **Appropriation: competitive grants to increase Pell grant eligible student retention and graduation rates.**

Appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to OHE for competitive matching grants to institutions to increase retention and graduation rates of federal Pell grant eligible students. This is a onetime appropriation. OHE is directed to prioritize awards to certain institutions, and a legislative report is required.

5   **Appropriation; multilingual and culturally relevant communications and materials.**

Appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to OHE for non-English materials or culturally relevant communications. This is a onetime appropriation.

6   **Appropriation; Minnesota Education Equity Partnership.**

Appropriates $90,000 per year in ongoing funding to OHE for a grant to MnEEP. MnEEP's annual base funding in the higher education budget is $45,000.

7   **Appropriation; working group on higher education financial stability.**

Appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal year 2026 only (therefore not ongoing) to OHE for a working group to make legislative recommendations regarding higher education funding. Sets out the members of the working group and requires a report.

8   **Appropriation; P-20 education partnership working group on higher education attainment goal.**

Appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal year 2026 only (therefore not ongoing) to OHE for a working group to update the state's higher education attainment goal. Sets out the members of the working group and requires a report.

9   **Appropriation; State Grant Plus scholarship.**

Appropriates a to-be-determined amount in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to OHE for the new State Grant Plus scholarship established under section 2 of the bill. Creates an automatic base increase to match any tuition increases at public postsecondary institutions.