

# Minnesota State Senate

Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee  
Thursday, February 10, 2022  
1:00 PMLivestream YouTube

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## Minutes

**Present:** Senator David J. Tomassoni - Chair, Senator Jason Rarick - Vice Chair, Senator Gregory D. Clausen, Senator Michael P. Goggin, Senator Aric Putnam

**Absent:** Senator John R. Jasinski

Senator Jason Rarick, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. A quorum was present.

**S.F. 2965: Senator Eichorn: Grant program establishment for students pursuing law enforcement degree.**

Senator Eichorn explained the bill as follows (see bill summary, bill and "POST Board" handout):

A bill for an act relating to higher education; establishing a grant program for students pursuing law enforcement degree; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 136A.

On behalf of Senator Eichorn, Senator Goggin moved the A-3 amendment (see document SCS2965A-3). The **MOTION PREVAILED** and the **AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED**. Senator Eichorn explained the amendment.

Tanya Gladney, PhD, Law Enforcement Coordinator for St. Thomas University, testified in favor of S.F. 2965, as amended.

Questions and comments from committee members ensued.

Senator Putnam moved to amend S.F. 2965, as amended (see document SCS2965A-4) and requested a roll call vote on passage of the amendment. Following discussion, Senator Putnam withdrew his request for a roll call vote.

The Chair asked for a voice vote on passage of the amendment and the amendment was adopted.

Further questions and comments from committee members ensued.

Senator Eichorn presented closing remarks.

The Chair announced that S.F. 2965, as amended, would be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus Higher Education bill and may be reconsidered for further committee discussion.

**S.F. 2964: Senator Jasinski: Workforce development scholarships expansion and appropriation to include law enforcement.**

Senator Rarick, on behalf of Senator Jasinski, explained the bill as follows (see bill summary, bill and "Law Enforcement Majors" handout):

A bill for an act relating to higher education; expanding workforce development scholarships to include law enforcement; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 136F.38, subdivisions 2, 4; Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 136F.38, subdivision 3; Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 3, subdivisions 1, 3.

Testifying in support of S.F. 2964 were the following:

- 1) Richard Watkins, Law Enforcement Program Coordinator/Instructor - Riverland Community College (Mr. Watkins introduced his classroom of students in the program)
- 2) Priscila Solorzano, Law Enforcement Program student - Riverland Community College
- 3) Brent Bradley, Law Enforcement Program Coordinator/Instructor - Hibbing Community College
- 4) Tyler Rooney, Law Enforcement Program student - Hibbing Community College

Questions and comments from committee members ensued.

Senator Rarick announced that S.F. 2964 would be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus Higher Education bill.

Senator Rarick announced that the next hearing would be Tuesday, February 15 and that the University of Minnesota will not be able to be present but the committee would hear from sports programs in regard to the cuts. He further indicated that the University may appear before the committee after litigation.

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The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

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Senator David J. Tomassoni, Chair

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Laura Bakk, Legislative Assistant