

Minnesota State Senate

Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee
Thursday, March 17, 2022
1:00 PM, Room G-3, Capitol

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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 John R. Jasinski, Senator Aric Putnam

Absent: No Members Absent

Senator Rarick, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

S.F. 3818: Senator Coleman: Youth skill path program establishment for employment-based training.

Senator Julia Coleman, chief author of S.F. 3818, explained the bill as follows (see bill summary and bill):

A bill for an act relating to education; establishing a youth skill path program for employment-based training; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 124D.

Senator Rarick moved the author's amendment (see amendment #SCS3818A-1). The **MOTION PREVAILED** and the **AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED**.

Testifying in support of S.F. 3818, as amended, were the following:

- 1) Amy Walstien, Education Policy and Workforce Development Director - MN Business Partnership
- 2) Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent - Rock Ridge School
- 3) Steve Kalina, Executive Director - MN Precision Manufacturing Association
- 4) Evan Lundeen, CEO - CNC Metalcraft
- 5) Joseph "Joey" Magana - Americans for Prosperity

Questions and comments from committee members ensued.

Following Senator Coleman's closing remarks, Senator Jasinski moved that S.F. 3818, as amended, be recommended to pass and re-referred to the Education Finance and Policy Committee. The **MOTION PREVAILED**. (See committee report.)

S.F. 3001: Senator Putnam: Higher education state grant program parameters modification.

Senator Putnam, chief author of S.F. 3001, explained the bill as follows (see bill summary and bill):

A bill for an act relating to higher education; modifying parameters in the state grant program; modifying restrictions on developmental education in state colleges and universities; creating new grant programs within the Office of Higher Education; requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 136A.121, subdivision 5; 136F.302, subdivisions 1, 2; Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 136A.121, subdivisions 6, 9.

Senator Putnam moved to amend S.F. 3001 (see amendment #SCS3001A-2). The **MOTION PREVAILED** and the **AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED**.

Testifying in support of S.F. 3001, as amended, were the following:

- 1) Dr. Bruce Corrie, Professor of Economics - Concordia University
- 2) Leiataua Dr. Robert Jon Peterson, MN Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP), and Founder/Owner/President of TE2 Consulting
- 3) Megan Rozowski, Director of Research and Policy Development - MN Private College Council, and MnEEP Board member (see MnEEP handout)
- 4) Zeke Jackson, student - University of Minnesota (unable to present testimony; see letter of support)

Following Senator Putnam's closing remarks, Senator Rarick announced that S.F. 3001, as amended, would be laid over for possible inclusion in the Higher Education omnibus bill.

S.F. 3714: Senator Rarick: Increase Teachers of Color Act strengthening and appropriation.

Senator Rarick, chief author of S.F. 3714, explained the bill as follows (see bill and handouts):

A bill for an act relating to higher education; strengthening the Increase Teachers of Color Act; providing supplemental financing for grants to underrepresented student teachers and the aspiring teachers of color scholarship pilot program; appropriating money.

Testifying in support of S.F. 3714 were the following:

- 1) LaTia Childers, grant recipient and former teacher candidate - MN State University-Mankato
- 2) Francisco Duran-Enriquez, grant recipient and teacher candidate - University of MN-Twin Cities
- 3) Elvira Elfrida, grant recipient and teacher candidate - University of St. Thomas
- 4) Jessica Garraway, grant recipient and former teacher candidate - Metro State University
- 5) Paul Spies, PhD and Legislative Action Team Lead - Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota
- 6) Laura Mogelson - MN Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

Following Senator Rarick's closing remarks, he announced that S.F. 3714 would be laid over for possible inclusion in the Higher Education omnibus bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Senator David J. Tomassoni, Chair

Laura Bakk, Legislative Assistant