

Minnesota State Senate

Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee
Tuesday, March 29, 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 Jason Rarick, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

S.F. 3846: Senator Kiffmeyer: Legislative Salary Council and Mississippi River Parkway Commission provisions modification.

Senator Kiffmeyer, chief author of S.F. 3486, explained her bill. The title is as follows (see bill summary and bill):

A bill for an act relating to state government; allowing contracts for services and supplies for the legislature and certain commissions and offices; modifying enabling statute for Legislative Salary Council and Mississippi River Parkway Commission; adding a provision to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities board; repealing Candidate Advisory Council for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 3.303, subdivision 6; 15A.0825, subdivisions 1, 2, 3; 136F.02, subdivision 1; 161.1419, subdivision 2; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 136F.03.

Michelle Weber, Executive Director of the MN Legislative Coordinating Commission, testified in favor of S.F. 3486.

Following Senator Kiffmeyer's closing remarks, Senator Rarick moved that S.F. 3846 be recommended to pass and re-referred to the State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee. **The MOTION PREVAILED** (see committee report).

S.F. 3972: Senator Hoffman: Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center and inclusive higher education grant establishment and appropriation.

Senator Hoffman, chief author of S.F. 3972, explained his bill. The title is as follows (see bill summary and bill):

A bill for an act relating to higher education; establishing the Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center and inclusive higher education grant; requiring reports; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 135A.

See handout #1, a packet of letters in support of S.F. 3972.

Following Senator Hoffman's explanation of document SCS3972A-1 (see attached), Senator Rarick moved the amendment. **The MOTION PREVAILED and the AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Following Senator Hoffman's explanation of document SCS3972A-2 (see attached), Senator Rarick moved the amendment. **The MOTION PREVAILED and the AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Testifying in support of S.F. 3972, as amended, were the following:

- 1) Dr. Brian Valentini - St. Cloud University
- 2) Mary Hauff - MN Inclusive Higher Education Consortium
- 3) Gene Martinez, Sr. Public Policy Advocate - The Arc Greater Twin Cities

Mr. Martinez provided a video with testimony in support from Brynn Sexton, a student with a disability.

Following Senator Hoffman's closing remarks, Senator Rarick announced that S.F. 3972, as amended, would be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus Higher Education bill.

NOTE: At the end of the committee meeting, Senator Rarick, realizing the above motion was incorrect, moved that S.F. 3972, as amended, be recommended to pass and re-referred to the State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee. The MOTION PREVAILED (see committee report).

S.F. 4045: Senator Coleman: Provisions governing the Rare Disease Advisory Council modification.

Senator Coleman, chief author of S.F. 4045, explained her bill. The title is as follows (see bill summary and bill):

A bill for an act relating to rare diseases; modifying provisions governing the Rare Disease Advisory Council; instructing the revisor of statutes to renumber certain statutes; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 137.68.

Amy Gaviglio, Chair of the Executive Subcommittee for the Rare Disease Advisory Council, testified in favor of S.F. 4045.

Following Senator Coleman's closing remarks, Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 4045 be recommended to pass and re-referred to the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee. The MOTION PREVAILED (see committee report).

S.F. 3624: Senator Jasinski: Owatonna Learn to Earn Coalition appropriation.

Senator Jasinski, chief author of S.F. 3624, explained his bill. The title is as follows (see bill):

A bill for an act relating to economic development; appropriating money for grants to the Owatonna Learn to Earn Coalition to help the Owatonna and Steele County region grow and retain a talented workforce.

Christy Tryhus, Dean of Academic Affairs at Riverland College testified in support of S.F. 3624.

Senator Jasinski presented closing remarks.

Questions and comments from committee members ensued.

Bernie Omann, Director of Government Relations at MN State, provided comments on the bill.

Senator Rarick announced that S.F. 3624 would be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus Higher Education bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Senator David J. Tomassoni, Chair

Laura Bakk, Legislative Assistant