

1.1 **Senator Carlson from the Committee on Elections, to which was referred**

1.2 **S.F. No. 1515:** A bill for an act relating to elections; modifying postsecondary student
1.3 voter registration provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 135A.17,
1.4 subdivision 2; 201.061, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill be amended as follows:

1.6 Page 1, after line 5, insert:

1.7 "Section 1. **[5.60] DEMOCRACY CUP.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the definitions have the
1.9 meanings given.

1.10 (b) "Postsecondary institution" means public postsecondary institutions and nonprofit
1.11 degree-granting institutions physically located in Minnesota and registered with the Office
1.12 of Higher Education under section 136A.63.

1.13 (c) "Report" means a National Student for Learning, Voting, and Engagement report
1.14 issued by the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University.

1.15 Subd. 2. **Enrollment; reports.** All postsecondary institutions must enroll in the National
1.16 Student for Learning, Voting, and Engagement by the Institute for Democracy and Higher
1.17 Education at Tufts University. Within 30 days of receiving a report, a postsecondary
1.18 institution must send the report to the secretary of state. The secretary of state must make
1.19 the reports publicly available on the secretary of state's website.

1.20 Subd. 3. **Democracy Cup.** Each January of an even numbered year, the secretary of
1.21 state must award a Democracy Cup to a postsecondary institution with the highest voting
1.22 rate according to the National Student for Learning, Voting, and Engagement at Tufts
1.23 University in one of the following categories: (1) public two-year colleges, (2) public
1.24 four-year state universities, (3) the University of Minnesota system, and (4) Minnesota
1.25 private colleges."

1.26 Page 2, after line 22, insert:

1.27 "Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.1611, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.28 Subdivision 1. **Forms.** (a) All postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting
1.29 state or federal financial aid ~~shall~~ must provide voter registration forms to each student as
1.30 ~~early as possible in the fall quarter~~ during the fall and spring of each year. In state election
1.31 years, it must be provided 15 days in advance of the deadline for registering to vote for the

2.1 state general election. If the voter registration forms are provided electronically, the electronic
2.2 message must be devoted exclusively to voter registration.

2.3 (b) All school districts ~~shall~~ must make available voter registration applications each
2.4 May and September to all students registered as students of the school district who will be
2.5 eligible to vote at the next election after those months. A school district has no obligation
2.6 to provide voter registration applications to students who participate in a postsecondary
2.7 education option program or who otherwise reside in the district but do not attend a school
2.8 operated by the district. A school district fulfills its obligation to a student under this section
2.9 if it provides a voter registration application to the student one time.

2.10 (c) The voter registration forms must contain spaces for the information required in
2.11 section 201.071, subdivision 1, and applicable rules of the secretary of state. The institutions
2.12 and school districts may request these forms from the secretary of state. Institutions ~~shall~~
2.13 must consult with their campus student government in determining the most effective means
2.14 of distributing the forms and in seeking to facilitate election day registration of students
2.15 under section 201.061, subdivision 3. School districts must advise students that completion
2.16 of the voter registration application is not a school district requirement.

2.17 (d) The institutions and school districts must report to the secretary of state by November
2.18 30 of each year on their implementation of this section. At a minimum, the report must
2.19 include how and when the forms were distributed, how many were distributed, and how
2.20 many were completed. Institutions and school districts may include information about
2.21 methods that were effective in increasing student registrations.

2.22 (e) By February 1 of each year, the secretary of state must report to the chairs and ranking
2.23 minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over elections on the data
2.24 received from institutions and school districts. The secretary must highlight best practices
2.25 and innovative methods that were most effective in registering students to vote.

2.26 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.1611, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.27 to read:

2.28 Subd. 3. **Voter information.** (a) All postsecondary institutions that enroll students
2.29 accepting state or federal financial aid must maintain a webpage to share resources to help
2.30 students determine where and how they are eligible to vote. The webpage must include the
2.31 following:

2.32 (1) resources from state and local election officials on voter registration and voting
2.33 requirements including voter registration deadlines; residency requirements; acceptable

3.1 methods of proving residency for same day registration, as applicable; and absentee voting
3.2 options;

3.3 (2) applicable deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot, as well as
3.4 additional options for early and in-person voting, and voting on election day;

3.5 (3) resources to help students who are registered in another state to apply for absentee
3.6 ballots in that state, and may include resources from state and local election officials from
3.7 that state;

3.8 (4) the campus vote coordinator's name and contact information; and

3.9 (5) the vote reengagement plan required by paragraph (b), clause (3).

3.10 (b) All postsecondary institutions that enroll students accepting state or federal financial
3.11 aid must designate a staff person as the campus vote coordinator. The campus vote
3.12 coordinator must:

3.13 (1) ensure the institution complies with this section;

3.14 (2) report the number of physical and electronic voter registrations collected on an annual
3.15 basis on the institution's voting website; and

3.16 (3) consult with the campus student association to develop a voter engagement plan that
3.17 identifies goals and activities, resources to accomplish the identified goals and activities,
3.18 and individual or key departments responsible for executing the identified goals and
3.19 activities."

3.20 Renumber the sections in sequence

3.21 Amend the title as follows:

3.22 Page 1, line 2, after "provisions;" insert "requiring the secretary of state to award a
3.23 Democracy Cup to certain postsecondary institutions;"

3.24 Amend the title numbers accordingly

3.25 And when so amended the bill do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on Higher
3.26 Education. Amendments adopted. Report adopted.



3.27
3.28 (Committee Chair)

3.29 February 15, 2023.....
3.30 (Date of Committee recommendation)