

Providing nonpartisan legal, research, and fiscal analysis services to the Minnesota Senate

S.F. No. 4416 – as proposed to be amended by the A1 amendment - Minnesota State Colleges and Universities faculty academic freedom protections establishment.

Author: Senator Aric Putnam

Prepared by: Joan White, Senate Counsel (651/296-3814)

Date: March 6, 2024

This bill modifies the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities chapter of law.

Section 1 adds a new section of law entitled academic freedom protection.

Subd 1 defines the term "academic freedom."

Subd 2 specifies faculty rights. This subdivision requires the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to maintain policies that support and encourage academic freedom. Provides that each faculty member has the right to teach in an atmosphere of free intellectual inquiry and not be subjected to restraints or harassment that would impair teaching. Further, this section entitles a faculty member to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, provided the faculty member fulfills the requirements and duties of his or her academic position. An institution shall not discriminate against a faculty member for engaging in political activities, provided it does not interfere with the job responsibilities.

Subd 3 is deleted in the amendment.

Section 2 is deleted in the amendment.