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S.F. No. 4597 – Public employee definition modification; University of Minnesota employees bargaining units modification.

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This bill amends the Public Employment Labor Relations chapter of the law.

Section 1 179.03, subd 14 modifies the exceptions to the definition of the term “public employee” by striking a reference to temporary or part-time student workers and full-time undergraduate students employed by the institution that the student attends and striking a reference to full-time students employed in a work-study program or in connection with the receipt of financial aid. This section also adds to the list of individuals who are public employees, including an individual hired by the University of Minnesota as an instructor to teach at least three credits or two or more classes in a fiscal year, and an individual who is paid by the Board of Regents and is enrolled in classes, as specified in this section, during the fiscal year in which the work is performed.

Sections 2 to 4 amend the University of Minnesota section of law under this chapter.

Section 2 179A.11, subd 1 eliminates four bargaining units of University of Minnesota employees. Defines the term “instructional employees” and includes them in the outstate instructional unit and expands the positions under the graduate assistance unit. This section also adds a new paragraph stating that all University of Minnesota employees whose positions are not in a bargaining unit may organize in a manner allowed under this chapter.

Section 3 179A.11, subd 2 modifies the right of University of Minnesota faculty groups to separate from their unit.

Section 4 179a.11, subd 3 adds a new subdivision to allow units organized under this section to jointly negotiate a contract with the regents or negotiate separate contracts with the regents.