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S.F. No. 4525 – Minnesota Respond, Innovate, Succeed and Empower (RISE) Act establishment - as proposed to be amended by the A-2 amendment.

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Section 1 (135A.163) states that this section of law may be cited as the “Minnesota Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act.” This section requires public and private institutions to have policies to inform, assist, and support students with disabilities.

Subd 2 defines the terms: “institution of higher education,” “plain language,” and “student with a disability.”

Subd 3 requires each institution to adopt a policy making self-disclosure sufficient proof of a disability to begin the interactive process under subdivision 4. This section also requires the policy to include information describing the process to determine eligibility for accommodations and about the disability resource center. The information must be transparent and explicit, available in different languages, and available during the application process, orientation, and in catalogs and the institution's website.

Subd 4 requires an institution to engage in an interactive process to document the student's accommodation needs and allows the institution to request documentation as part of the interactive process. The documentation listed in this section is deemed sufficient to establish reasonable accommodations for a student with a disability.

Subd 5 imposes requirements on institutions related to students with disabilities. The list of requirements under this section includes, to name a couple, that before the beginning of each term, the institution must offer a student the opportunity to self-identify as having a disability for which the student may request an accommodation and must initiate contact with students who self-identify, and that an institution must not require a student to be reevaluated to prove the presence of a permanent disability if the student previously provided proof.

Section 2 repeals the existing law requiring public postsecondary institutions to have policies related to students with disabilities.

The sections in this bill are effective January 1, 2025.